THE DANGEROUS DOZEN: WHY TO FEAR THEM ... HOW TO BEAT THEM!

FROM THE PUBLISHERS OF PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED

WRESTLING SUPERSTARS®

WRESTLING SUPERSTARS

- Dream Match: Michaels vs. Helmsley
- Who Was The Best NWA Champ?
- Will McMahon Fire Dustin?
- Has Booker T Forgotten His Roots?

HOGAN vs. WARRIOR

The Ultimate Rematch ... Eight Years Later!

Warrior beats Hogan in 1990!

OCTOBER 1998

$3.95 U.S. $4.95 CANADA £2.95 U.K.

10

7 22627 00392 8

CALL THE OFFICIAL ECW HOTLINE

THE ONLY HOTLINE FOR HARDCORE FANS!

Hosted by the voice of ECW, Joey Styles

Don't dare call yourself a fan of ECW if you have not called THE OFFICIAL ECW HOTLINE.

GET A FREE ECW MERCHANDISE CATALOG

CALL TODAY

TO GET THE LATEST ON...

- **Confidential wrestling news from every promotion!**
- **Results from all live ECW events including pay-per-views!**
- **Vote for the ECW Wrestler of the Year!**
- ***PLUS* Hear Joey Styles "shoot" from the hip!**

IN THE U.S.: 1-900-446-4ECW (1-900-446-4329)

IN CANADA: 1-900-451-2666

IN THE U.K.: 0897-555-233

This service is available for both touch-tone and rotary-dialed phones
Cost per minute in the U.S. $1.99, cost per minute in Canada $2.49, cost per minute in U.K. £1.00

Kids under 18 need parental permission before calling

WRESTLING SUPERSTARS

CONTENTS/OCTOBER 1998

DEPARTMENTS

4 FAN FORUM
6 SUPERSTAR GRAPEVINE
8 SUPERSTAR QUOTEBOOK
46 SUPERSTAR INTERVIEW: MARCUS BAGWELL
56 *WRESTLING SUPERSTARS* CLASSIC (June 1991)
60 SUPERSTAR DREAM MATCH: SHAWN MICHAELS vs. HUNTER HEARST HELMSLEY
78 KNOW YOUR HOLDS
80 OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS
82 RATINGS ANALYSIS

10 **THE NWA AT 50 YEARS OLD: WRESTLING SUPERSTARS RATES THE CHAMPIONS!**
Believe us, this was *not* an easy task!

12 **THE DANGEROUS DOZEN WHY TO FEAR THEM ... HOW TO BEAT THEM!**
14 Steve Austin
16 Chris Benoit
18 Kevin Nash
20 The Giant
22 Ken Shamrock
24 Dallas Page
26 Cactus Jack
28 Bill Goldberg
30 Dan Severn
32 Randy Savage
34 The Undertaker
36 Taz

39 **DUSTIN BURNS HIS BRITCHES: WILL HE BE FIRED TO SET AN EXAMPLE FOR AUSTIN?**
Don't put something like this past Mr. McMahon

42 **HOGAN vs. WARRIOR: THE ULTIMATE REMATCH ... EIGHT YEARS LATER!**
The pressure will be on Hollywood this time

52 **STEVIE RAY: "BOOKER T HAS FORGOTTEN WHERE HE'S FROM!"**
He went to great lengths to show us what he meant

COVER DESIGN:
Alex Krasnopolsky

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE SEPTEMBER 29, 1998

FAN FORUM

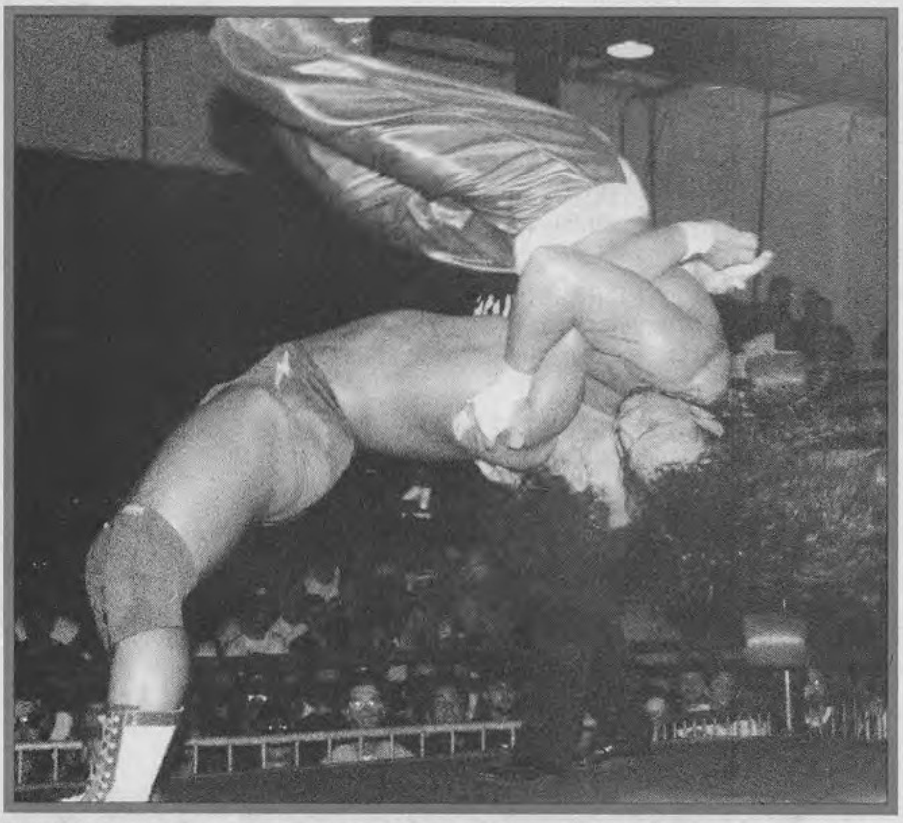
Send Letters To: FAN FORUM
WRESTLING SUPERSTARS
P.O. BOX 1148
FT. WASHINGTON, PA 19034

SNOWFAN

I don't think it is very fair of fans to chant "You sold out!" at Al Snow when he wrestles for ECW. Everybody knows that some wrestlers have gone back and forth between the WWF and ECW a lot. Nobody shouts those things at Doug Furnas, Brakus, 2 Cold Scorpio, Rob Van Dam, Chris Candido, or Sunny—all of whom have been in the WWF at various times of their careers. Al Snow is no different than anybody else trying to extend his career beyond the cult of ECW fans.

KIMBERLY TRAVIS
Philadelphia, PA

ECW fans are angry that Al Snow (seen here with Jim Ross at a recent *Raw*) has headed back to the WWF. Reader Kimberly Travis believes it is wrong for fans to think Snow sold out when he's only trying to boost his career.



Everybody says Taz is a human suplex machine, but Doug Furnas has quite a few suplexes in his repertoire. Here he shows one to Sabu. Reader Scott Borvac says Furnas' suplexes must be seen in person to be fully appreciated.

SEEING IS BELIEVING

If any wrestler is qualified to teach wrestling holds and moves, especially the belly-to-back suplex, it is Doug Furnas ("Know Your Holds," August 1998). At one time, Furnas was perhaps the strongest wrestler in the WWF. Despite the fact that Furnas has limited mat skills, I would never want to be on the receiving end of this suplex. If you've ever seen him execute one live, you would feel the same way!

SCOTT BORVAC
Halifax, Nova Scotia

WHY, FANS, WHY?

I am writing this letter in hopes that someone who attends *Nitro* or *Thunder* in person can answer a question for me.

When did it become so cool to shower the ring with trash? Do you do this at other sports events? I've been to a lot of wrestling shows, and there have been a lot of times

when I've seen plastic cups hit wrestlers right in the head. As far as I know, no wrestler has been seriously injured under these circumstances, but I'm afraid it could very easily happen one of these days. Either that or another fan or an official at ringside could get hit. How bad would it be if someone got nailed in the eye?

So if any of you idiots who participate in this stupidity have the guts to defend yourselves, write back and tell me why you do it.

JOE LIECHTER
Philadelphia, PA

Even Lex Luger cannot escape Meng's nervehold, but Scott Clever isn't impressed by the Pacific Islander. He felt we were a little overzealous in our appraisal of Meng's strength.

WEAK SECTION

Your "Special Section: Wrestling's 50 Strongest Men" (August 1998) was a complete joke. Obviously, nobody on your staff knows the first thing about power. I don't care what anybody says. There is no way that Meng is stronger than Lex Luger, Sid Vicious, Animal, Doug Furnas, Faarooq, Davey Boy Smith, Tony Atlas, Hulk Hogan, Buff Bagwell, Kama, or Hawk. Meng would place 51st on my list. Scott Hall, Hugh Morris, Bradshaw, and Kronus shouldn't even be on the list at all.

By the way, who is Rhino Richards?

SCOTT CLEVER
Ann Arbor, MI

FEMALE FANFARE

Luna, Sable, Sunny, Chyna, Jacquelyn, Marlena. Come on, Vince! How about some ladies wrestling? Now that we've got the most gorgeous and talented females in the sport right here in the WWF, I'm sure you can put together a ladies division. Sable vs. Luna was the highlight of WrestleMania XIV and Unforgiven. The WWF is on the cutting edge, so bring back ladies wrestling, Vince.

G. RIVALDI
Rockford, IL

SMART MOVE

What a great day it was for NWO Hollywood when Scott Hall attacked Kevin Nash at Slamboree and left The Wolfpac. It might have been a cowardly thing to do, but Dusty Rhodes and Hall do not deserve to be in Nash's shadow. I even heard that poor "Big Sexy" had a concussion after the match. Oh, well. Black and white 4 life!

BRIANNA BROOKINS
San Diego, CA

(Continued on page 70)

WRESTLING SUPERSTARS

STANLEY WESTON
Founder

PUBLISHER ..... Stuart M. Saks
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF ..... David Lenker
SENIOR EDITOR ..... Bill Apter
MANAGING EDITOR ..... Brandi Mankiewicz
ASSOCIATE EDITOR ..... Frank Krewda
SENIOR ART DIRECTOR ..... Wendy Vetter
ART DIRECTORS ..... Joseph Kalman
Alex Krasnopolsky
Walt Schmidt
Tracy Fedorowicz
Jonathan Harris
PRE-PRESS DIRECTOR ..... Cliff Campo
PRE-PRESS ASSOCIATES ..... Kelly Flum
..... Alex Bryniarski
PHOTO EDITOR ..... Frank Vitucci
SENIOR WRITERS ..... Steve Anderson
Bryan Ethier
Andy Rodriguez
David Rosenbaum
Harry Burkett
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS ..... Matt Brock
Elizabeth A. Hunter
Dan Murphy
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR ..... Craig Peters

Vice President/Marketing
David Gerhardt

Executive Vice President/Circulation
Kenneth J. Gudaitis

Circulation Director
Robert Nucci

Advertising Information
(215) 643-6385

Customer Service
London Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 2029, Dept. 9
Marion, OH 43302

WRESTLING SUPERSTARS (ISSN: 1042-5284), Volume 17, Number 4, is published six times a year by London Publishing Co., 7002 W. Butler Pike, Ambler, PA 19002. Periodicals postage paid at Ambler, PA 19002 and additional post offices. Postmaster: Send change of address notices to: WRESTLING SUPERSTARS, P.O. Box 2029, Dept. 9, Marion, OH 43302. Single copy price $3.95 ($4.95 in Canada, £2.50 in U.K.). Annual subscription price $20.14 in the U.S., $24.94 in Canada and remaining countries. Not responsible for the loss or non-return of unsolicited articles or photographs, which will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed envelope bearing the proper amount of postage. No part of this magazine may be reproduced without the written permission of the publisher. All rights reserved. FOR ADVERTISING INQUIRIES AND RATES: (215) 643-6385. U.S. and Canadian distribution by Kable News Inc., 641 Lexington Ave., New York, NY 10022. International distribution by Worldwide Media Service Inc., 115 East 23rd St., New York, NY 10010, U.K. distribution by Comag, Tavistock Rd., West Drayton, Middlesex UB77QE, England.

Printed in U.S.A.

SUPERSTAR GRAPEVINE

YOU REALLY HAVE to wonder what **Jeff Jarrett** had in mind when he parted company with **Jim Cornette** back in March.

Apparently, Cornette's purist approach to wrestling stifled "Double-J's" flamboyant personality so much that Jarrett scurried back to his horse-riding, ditty-singing, ring-strutting ways as soon as he could. Nothing wrong with that. Except that part of Jarrett's return to his roots included a reunion with **Tennessee Lee**—his old friend from the USWA—and the recent lull in Jarrett's career suggests there is plenty wrong with that.

Signing on with Lee has already cost Jarrett one championship—the NWA North American title. It's not the most prestigious belt around, but it's a belt nonetheless. When Jarrett waived goodbye to Cornette, he abandoned that belt and destroyed some of the credibility he had built up with the WWF fans.

Still, Jarrett insists he's in better hands now. "Jim Cornette didn't care one bit about Jeff Jarrett or his career," Jarrett said. "He was just using me for his own agenda, whatever it was. But I can trust ol' Tennessee because he's my friend. I know he's looking out for *my* best interests."

So far, the only thing Lee has done for Jarrett is mire him in a feud with **Steve Blackman**, a newcomer who could get ahead by bumping off the former three-time I-C champ a few times. When Lee rejoined Jarrett, he spoke about leading him to the top of the WWF. Now it seems Lee has robbed Jarrett of any direction at all.

Although he might beg to differ, Jeff Jarrett took a giant step backward when he left Jim Cornette to team up with old friend Tennessee Lee. At least Jarrett was the NWA North American champion under Cornette.

"Jeff's career had purpose when he wrestled for me," said Cornette. "He wrestled in the name of tradition, under the banner of the NWA. And he was a fine champion. But now Tennessee Lee has him fighting Blackman seven days a week. Jeff isn't in line for any title shots and doesn't figure to be any time soon. Quite frankly, Jeff Jarrett is in no-man's land."

* * *

Talk about your odd couples. Could we soon see a union between **Flock** castoff **Van Hammer** and Luchadore **Juventud Guerrera**? When you consider the common bond these two wrestlers share, their hatred of The Flock, a full-time alliance between this unlikely pair doesn't seem so unlikely.

Of course, their styles clash (Guerrera uses an aerial assault, while Hammer prefers a power attack), and there is a huge size differential (Hammer goes 6'6", 285 pounds, Juvi about 12 inches and 120 pounds less than that), but both wrestlers are determined to let The Flock know they won't be intimidated.

Hammer and Juvi have come to each other's defense recently, as The Flock has made a habit of showing up at ringside whenever either man wrestles. Guerrera has even taken on the gargantuan **Reese**. Hammer returned the

(Continued on page 72)

COMBINE & SAVE

By taking advantage of our special combination offers, you can have all of the world's leading wrestling magazines delivered to your door and save up to 30% off the regular newsstand price!

COMBINE & SAVE

Magazines	ONE-YEAR SUBSCRIPTION # of Issues	U.S. Price	Canada/ Foreign	TWO-YEAR SUBSCRIPTION # of Issues	U.S. Price	Canada/ Foreign
DISCOUNT COMBINATION OFFER *(SAVE 25%!)*						
☐ New ☐ Renewal — THE WRESTLER, INSIDE WRESTLING	26 (13 each title)	☐ $54.75	☐ $75.55 ($119.75 airmail)	52 (26 each title)	☐ $109.50	☐ $151.10 ($239.50 airmail)
SUPER SAVER COMBINATION OFFER *(SAVE 30%!)*						
☐ New ☐ Renewal — PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED, THE WRESTLER, INSIDE WRESTLING	39 (13 each title)	☐ $81.50	☐ $112.70 ($199.00 airmail)	78 (26 each title)	☐ $162.95	☐ $225.35 ($357.95 airmail)

☑ **YES!** Please enter the combination subscription I have checked above. I have enclosed a check or money order for payment in full or included my credit card number to charge my purchase.

Please indicate method of payment:

☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to LONDON PUBLISHING CO.)

☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard Expiration Date: ____/____ MO / YR

Card No.: _____

Signature: _____

Send To: LONDON PUBLISHING CO.
Dept. 9
P.O. Box 2021
Marion, OH 43302

Name _____

Address _____

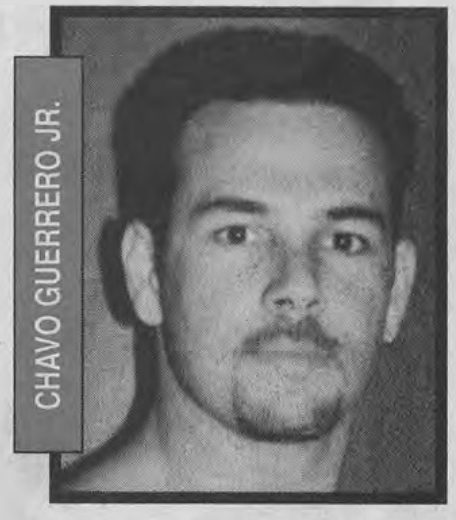
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

For orders outside the U.S., international money order in U.S. funds only. Please allow up to eight weeks before you receive your first issue.

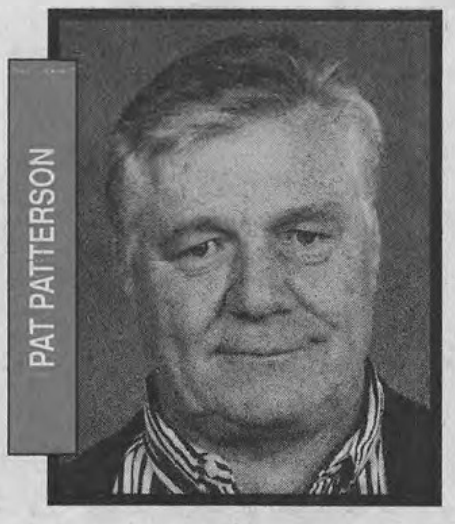
4689/02-98/2c

RINGTHEBELL.org on Archive.org

SUPERSTAR QUOTEBOOK

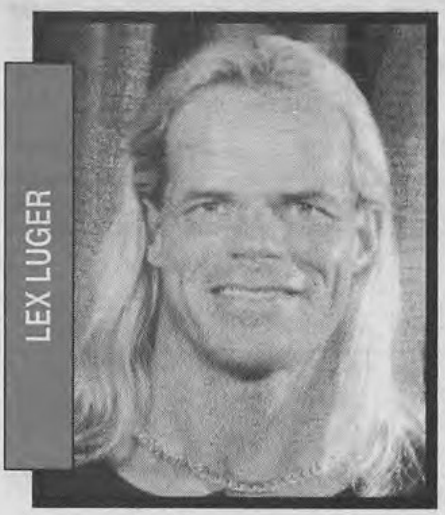


"What's the matter, Uncle Eddy, don't you like your little nephew anymore? You never come to ringside during my matches. You don't insult me. You don't slap me around. You don't hide your face in that white towel. Why not, Uncle Eddy? You were supposed to be my loving uncle. You were going to look out for my career. Remember? Did something happen to change your mind, Uncle Eddy? Or are you just afraid of your weak, stupid little nephew? Is that your problem?"

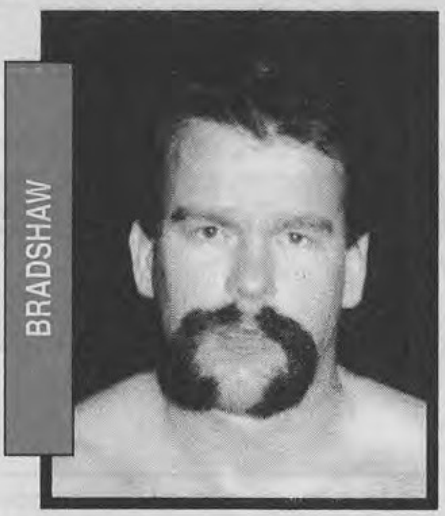


"These punks like Goldust and Dude Love think they can push Mr. McMahon around whenever they want to, but they forget how many years he has been in this business. He knows what it takes to get the job done. He knows how to get what he wants. And he wants 'Stone-Cold' Steve Austin knocked off his pedestal. If men like 'Triple-H' or The Undertaker can't do it for him, then he'll just have to do it himself. Believe me, there's more than one way to skin a rattlesnake."

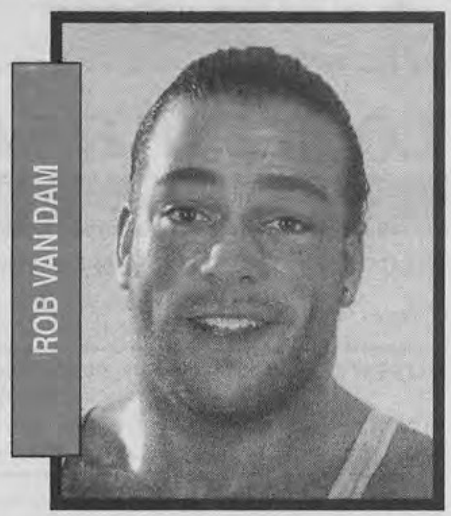
"That sawed-off runt Taz has done it this time. I think the concussion Bam Bam Bigelow gave him at Living Dangerously knocked a screw loose or something. I mean, the audacity of this punk to call himself the uncrowned champion while Shane Douglas defends the belt with all those injuries. And to disgrace Chris Candido, Shane, Bam Bam, and myself by actually wearing a Triple Threat T-shirt into the ring ... well, just wait, Taz, The Triple Threat will teach you about respect."



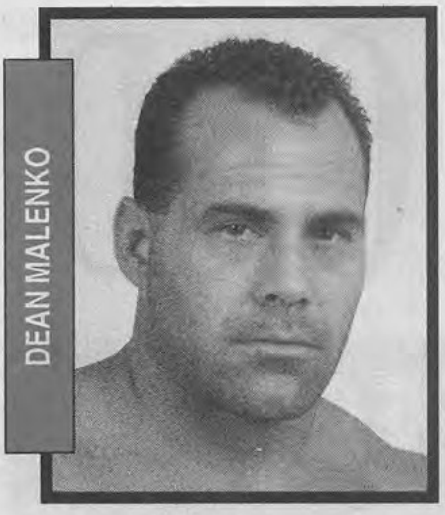
"I knew Sting wouldn't disappoint his good buddy Lex. With the 'Stinger' wearing the red and black of The Wolfpac, 'Big Sexy,' 'K-Dogg,' 'Macho Man,' and myself can take out the trash, if you know what I mean. Hollywood Hogan, you may think you're unbeatable, but The Wolfpac will drive you out of WCW once and for all. Everybody knows that Sting has the NWO's number—and now he's on our side. I never thought I'd be saying this, but Sting is just too sweet!"



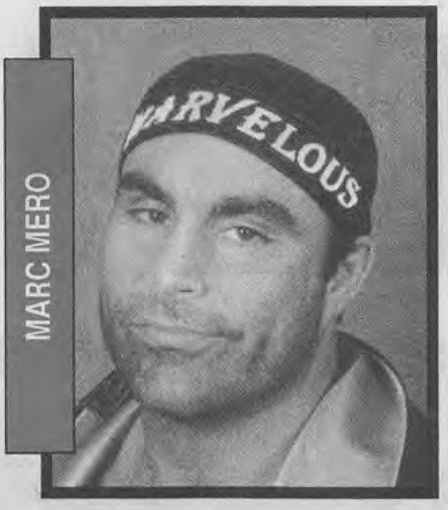
"People keep asking me, 'Why ya hanging with that Taka Michinoku? What can a big guy from Texas and a little guy from Japan have in common?' Well, Taka and me, we got a deal. I teach him how to be American and he helps me out with Kaientai. Now, you're probably asking, 'Why do you need a little guy like Taka to help you?' Well, he used to run with Kaientai back in Japan. He knows how they operate. A little bit of my time is well worth the inside information."



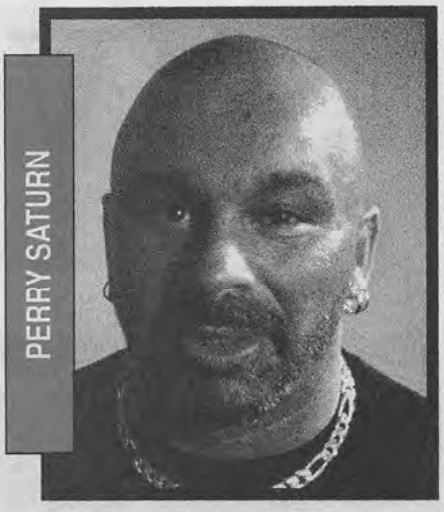
"Boy, Lance Storm is gullible. I can almost understand how he fell for that stunt Sunny pulled at Living Dangerously. But did he actually believe I would help him defeat my best friend and tag team partner, Sabu. A wrestler of my ability doesn't just lend his services to any old Tom, Dick, or Lance. Besides, what did Lance Storm ever do for me? Take a page out of 'Mr. Monday Night's' book, Storm, and don't depend on anybody but yourself to do your dirty work."



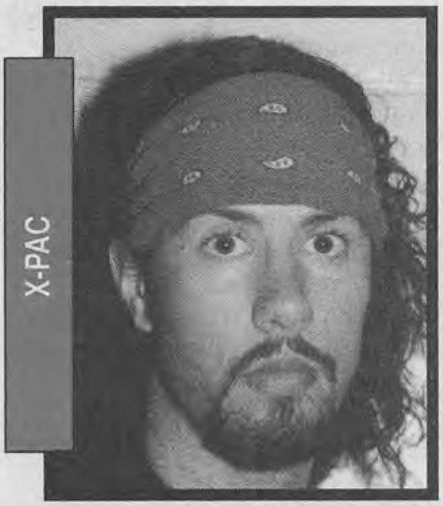
"I've been in WCW for a few years now, and a lot of good has happened in those few years. But I've never enjoyed any one match as much as I enjoyed that cruiserweight title match at Slamboree. I was fighting for the Malenko name, for the honor of my late father, Boris, for my brother, Joe, and also for my own pride. Chris Jericho better think twice about insulting my family again. He hasn't seen how angry Dean Malenko can get, but I promise you that he will."



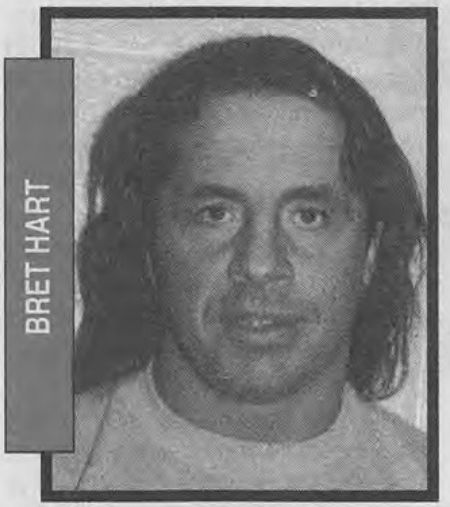
"I told you Sable was nothing without me. And just to show all you fools who thought she was the real star of our little team, I brought Jacquelyn in to take her place—less than 24 hours later. Didn't waste much time, did I? With Jacquelyn in my corner, I can concentrate on winning instead of worrying about Sable trying to show me up with her revealing outfits or temper tantrums. Marc Mero is on his way to the top—with Jacquelyn. Sorry, all you Sable fans!"



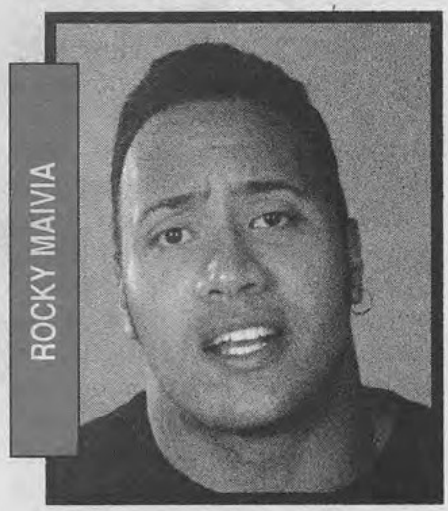
"Let's get something straight right now! I have never been a follower of Raven or of anybody else! And I was never a member of that Flock! Sure, I've been friends with Raven for a long, long time, but I never followed him anywhere. We helped each other out when we were young, but that was a long time ago, and I don't need his or anybody else's help anymore. That's just the way it is. I can stand on my own two feet now! Hear that, Raven? I don't need your help anymore!"



"The Nation must be nuts if they think they can intimidate DeGeneration X. I don't care if Mark Henry can squat 5,000 pounds. That doesn't make him bad. Bad is an attitude. Billy Gunn has the attitude. 'Triple-H' has it. The 'Road Dog,' Jesse James, he has it. You know Chyna's got it. And you better believe I got it. DX is bad personified. That's why we'll beat The Nation. They're just not as bad as DeGeneration X. And they're way too stupid to know it."



"Randy Savage has got to be the dumbest man in the world. Everybody in WCW saw the way I played him and Roddy Piper against each other at Slamboree and on *Nitro.* Everybody except Savage. Not only is Savage dumb, but he's also a coward. He ducked me for 15 years before finally getting up the courage to face me in the ring. But even after all these years, Randy Savage still has absolutely no chance of beating me. Elizabeth figured that out fast, didn't she?"



"'The Rock' is just thrilled at the way The Nation has handled business ever since I kicked that old buzzard Faarooq out. Everybody knows their role, and they're keeping their damn mouths shut. Otherwise, 'The Rock' would have to lay the smack on them—and they know 'The Rock' can do it, because 'The Rock' has a very big hand. Faarooq was much too weak to keep Kama, D-Lo, and Mark Henry in line like 'The Rock' does. 'The Rock' is just a natural-born leader."

THE NWA AT 50 YEARS OLD

WRESTLING SUPERSTARS RATES THE CHAMPIONS

The NWA has reached the half-century mark, leaving behind a rich legacy of great champions. Now is an appropriate time to decide: Who was the best of the best?

By Harry Burkett

WRESTLING traditionalists, here's exciting news for you: The National Wrestling Alliance celebrated its 50th year in July 1998. That's quite a milestone for any institution, especially one that exists in the tumultuous world of professional wrestling. The hallmark of the NWA has been its ability to change with the times, in terms of providing top-flight action and well as its flexible corporate structure. True, the NWA is no longer the most dominant promotion in wrestling today, but it did enjoy that status for, arguably, 35 years of its existence. Holding the NWA World title was correctly regarded as being the pinnacle of a wrestler's career.

Many older fans will say, "I can't believe the NWA title has been around for that long." Newer fans might say, "Wait a minute, I thought the NWA title went back to the turn of the century." In a sense, both sentiments would be correct. The NWA wasn't officially established until Orville Brown was declared its first champion in July 1948. When recognized World champion Lou Thesz won the NWA title by default in 1949, the NWA and the undisputed championship that traced its lineage to 1904 were considered synonymous.

From that point forward, the NWA became the premier governing body for countless promotions around the world. After dropping off the radar screen in the early-1990s, the NWA is once again regarded as one of the top promotions in the U.S.

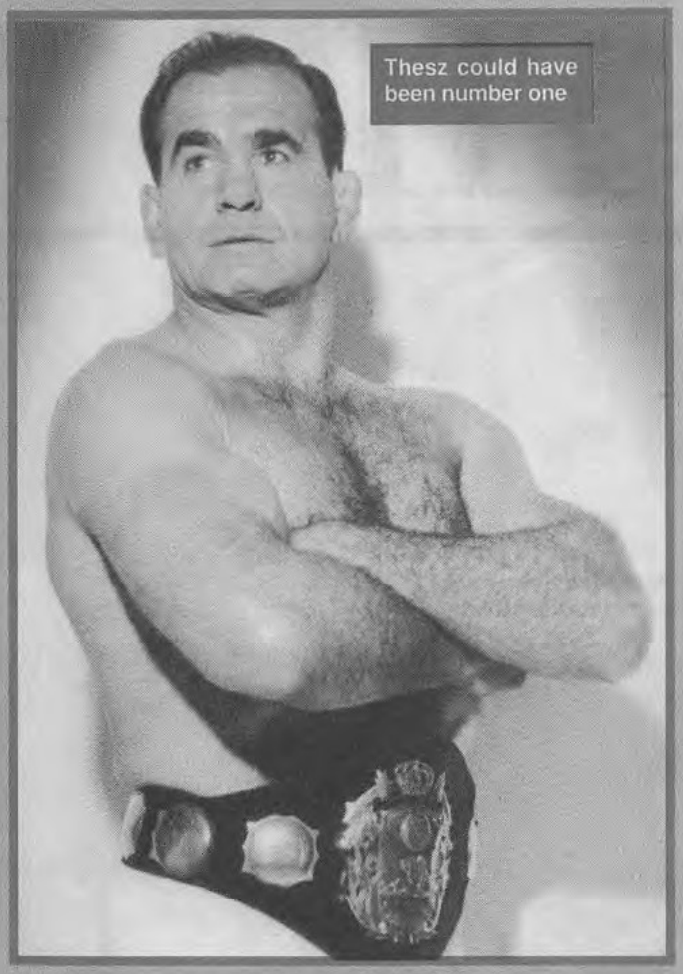
Of course, the NWA will always be remembered for its roll call of champions. WRESTLING SUPERSTARS thought this historic occasion was a great time to settle the controversy that has burned for 50 years: Who was the greatest NWA champion of all-time?

Of course, some old-timers might shudder at the omission of wrestlers like Joe Stecher, Stanislaus Zbyszko, Danno O'Mahony, and Ed "Strangler" Lewis, who is considered by many to be the greatest wrestler of all-time, but this list dates back only to 1948. These legends all held the belt prior to that.

1. RIC FLAIR (1981-94, 9 reigns)

The "Nature Boy" redefined the role of "champion" during the 1980s. Past titleholders had consisted of grizzled tough guys and all-American boys. Flair, with his three-piece suits and jet-setting lifestyle, proved that a wrestling champ could be a professional both in and out of the ring. Those competitors who managed to "beat

Flair was the best of the last 50 years


Thesz could have been number one

the man" for the belt were considered very lucky men indeed.

2. LOU THESZ (1949-66, 3 reigns)

If all six of Thesz' title reigns had been under the auspices of the NWA, he probably would have squeezed Flair out of the top spot. His first three reigns occurred before 1949, when he was recognized as champ by the National Wrestling *Association,* a division of the National Boxing Association. Thesz' amazing six-year NWA title reign—between 1949 and 1956—took place during television's golden age and made him a national celebrity.

3. HARLEY RACE (1973-84, 8 reigns)

Some fans might be surprised to learn that the Missouri native made the top three with no problem. Between 1977 and 1981, Race worked especially hard to gain international respect for the title. Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, and Singapore became regular stops for wrestling's first globetrotting champion.

4. DORY FUNK JR. (1969-73)

He was seen as Lou Thesz' successor, in terms of both style and demeanor. Funk did, however, disappoint younger fans by criticizing the values of his generation. A 1973 auto accident probably shaved years from his lengthy title reign and was a contributing factor when he lost to Harley Race that year.

5. GENE KINISKI (1966-69)

"Big Thunder" ended an era when he defeated Lou Thesz in 1966, but few observers were totally surprised. After all, Kiniski was gruff, tough, and one of the best wrestlers Canada had ever produced. He had a great run as champion despite being booed almost everywhere he went.

6. BUDDY ROGERS (1961-63)

Brash and confident, the original "Nature Boy" was probably a sign of times to come. Rogers was a long-time U.S. champion and always seemed to be on the heels of the world titleholder. He won the belt in Chicago's Comiskey Park, then uttered his first line as champ: "To a nicer guy, it couldn't happen." He died in 1992.

7. DICK HUTTON (1957-59)

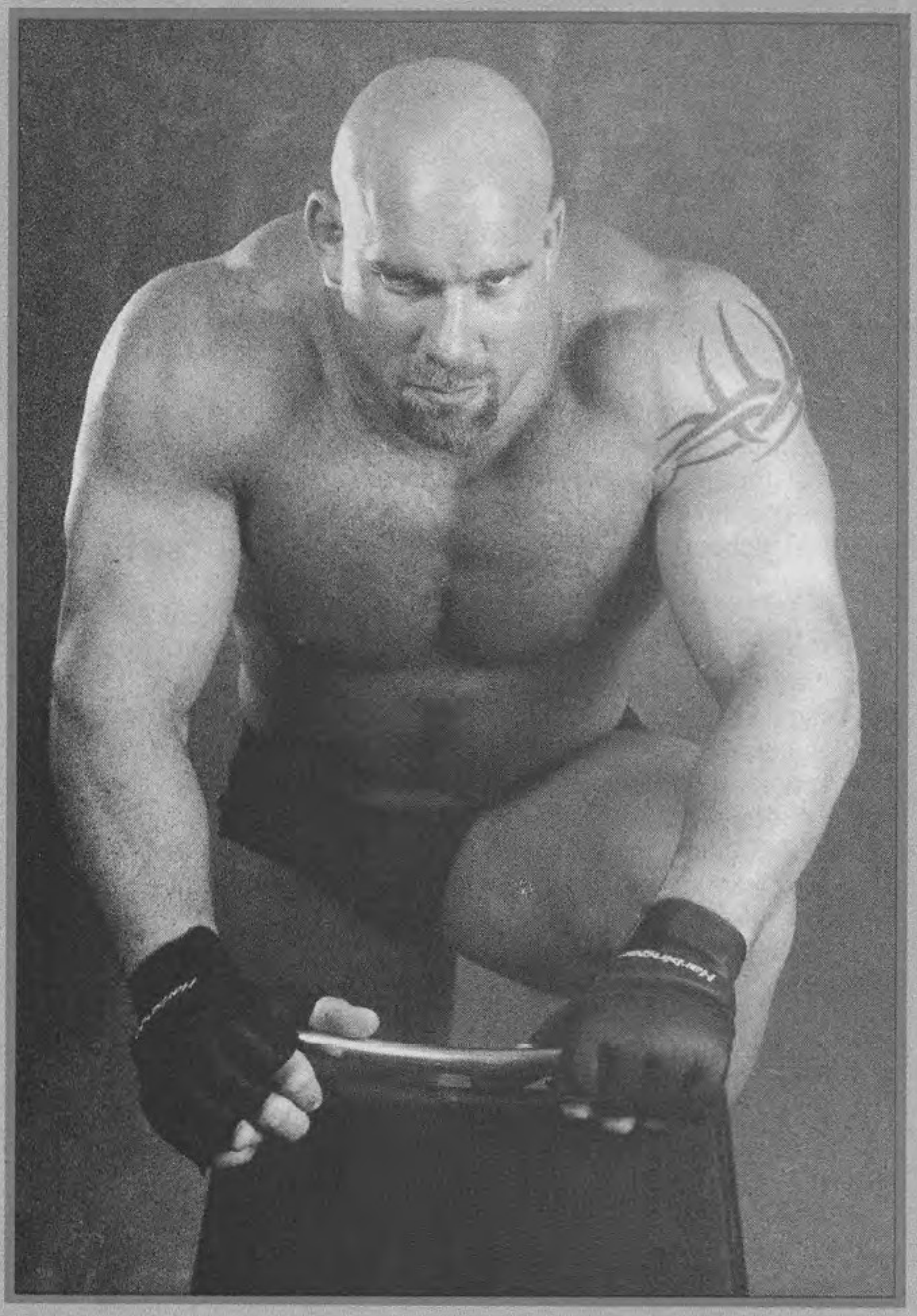
This rough-and-ready competitor is the one most credited with making Lou Thesz consider semi-retirement. He defeated Thesz for the title in Toronto and defended it against scientific wrestlers and rulebreakers alike for 18 months.

(Continued on page 74)

THE DANGE

WHY TO FEAR THEM...

How many wrestlers can intimidate like Goldberg?



KEVIN NASH'S "JACKKNIFE" power bomb. The Undertaker's "tombstone" piledriver. Ken Shamrock's anklelock. The Giant's choke-slam. Cactus Jack's mandible claw. All dangerous finishers. All moves or holds that can finish off an opponent in an instant. All moves that warrant fear. There's nothing wrong with a little fear in wrestling. The trouble comes when fear is paralyzing. When a wrestler says to himself, "There's no way I can beat this guy."

But, of course, there is a way to beat every wrestler. Lou Thesz lost. Ric Flair lost. Even Hollywood Hogan loses, more now than he ever did before. The Legion of Doom? They lose regularly, too. There's no such thing as an invincible wrestler. The only wrestlers who have ever retired with perfect records are the ones who only wrestled at most a handful of matches. Wrestling is a sport for humans, and whenever there are humans involved, there's room for imperfection.

Ric Flair. We've seen that figure-four leglock escaped and reversed. Rick Steamboat. There were times when even Steamboat's magnificent stamina didn't propel him to victory. Big Van Vader's intimidation. Well, once Hogan got up from his power bomb, the great Vader no longer seemed too intimidating.

"There are two very important aspects to professional wrestling," Verne Gagne once said. "The first is realizing your opponents strengths. Knowing why you should fear him and how he plans

ROUS DOZEN

HOW TO BEAT THEM...

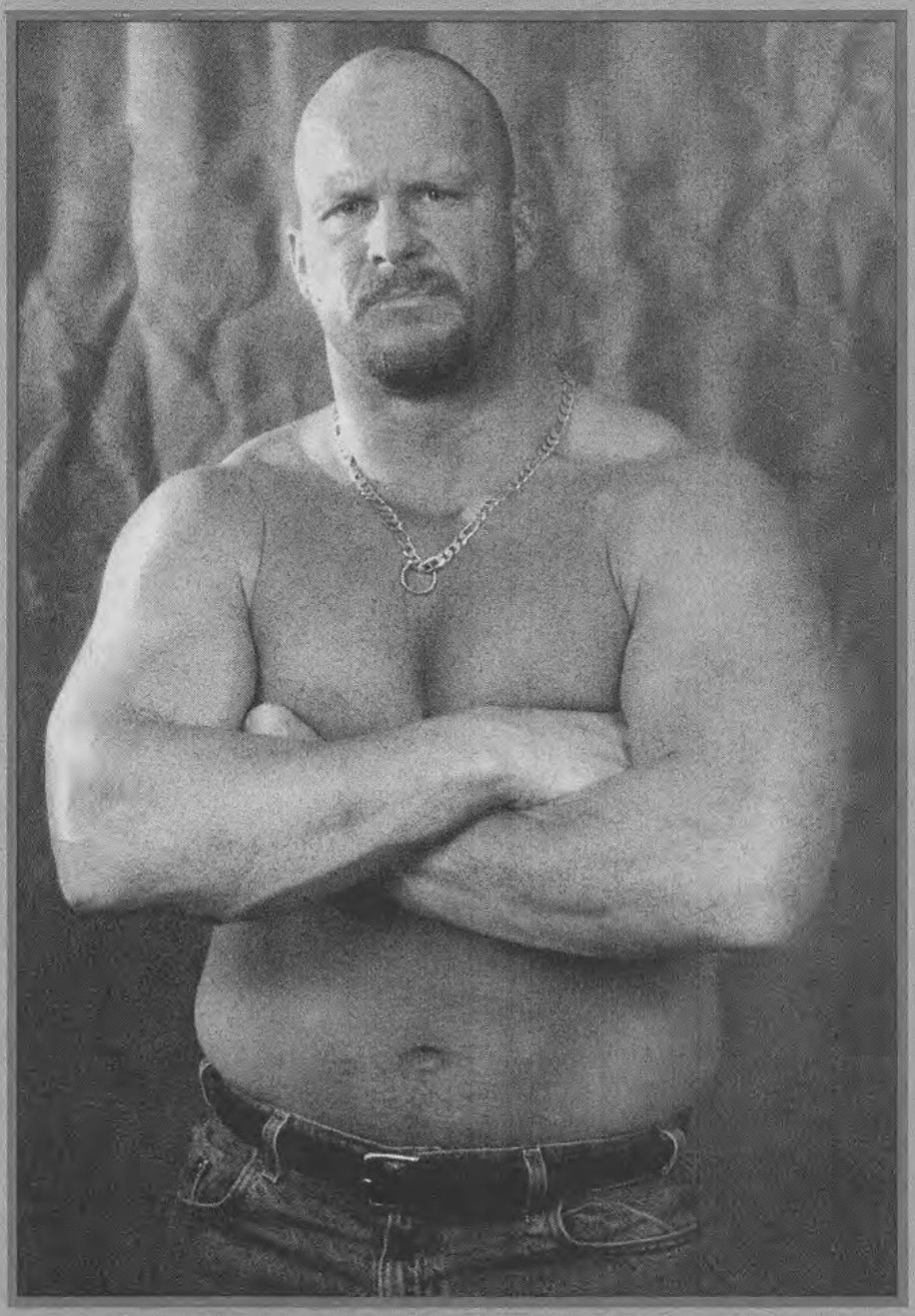
on beating you. The second aspect is knowing his weaknesses and how to counter his strengths. One doesn't work without the other. I've heard of so-called fearless wrestlers, but I've never heard of a successful wrestler who didn't respect his opponent."

It was a wise old man—or was it a wise old woman?—who once said, "Where there's a will, there's a way." In wrestling, it's not only a matter of will. It's a matter of hard work and intelligence. And it's a matter of that old adage to which we just alluded: Nobody's perfect. Not even world champions. Not even Hogan, Flair, and Thesz.

Fear and reason. That's the subject of this first-time feature in WRESTLING SUPERSTARS in which we analyze 12 of the greatest wrestlers in the world. We'll tell you why opponents should fear them and how opponents should go about beating them. We consulted the wrestlers' opponents, TV commentators, magazine columnists, managers, and even the wrestlers themselves. Creative thinking is often the key to beating a top wrestler. There can never be too many ideas.

Bill Goldberg. Steve Austin. Ken Shamrock. The Giant. Dan Severn. Chris Benoit. "Diamond" Dallas Page. Kevin Nash. Randy Savage. The Undertaker. Taz. Cactus Jack. We've run the gamut of stars in this special section. And just in case you ever find yourself in the ring against one of these guys, you'll know where to turn to for advice. Just pick up this magazine!

It's not easy, but "Stone-Cold" can be beaten



STEVE

WHY TO FEAR HIM

WWF World champ "Stone-Cold" Steve Austin executes his "stunner" on Intercontinental champ Rocky Maivia. The "stunner" is the most feared move in the WWF and makes Austin the most dangerous wrestler in the federation.

1. NO FEAR. Any man who would take on the owner of his federation—the man who will negotiate his next contract—obviously doesn't care who he runs up against. Austin's feud with WWF chief Vince McMahon says a lot about McMahon, a power freak who can't stand the idea of a non-traditional wrestler as World champion. It also says a lot about Austin, who never backs down and won't let anyone stop him.

2. THE "'STONE-COLD' STUNNER." It's not just the impact of Austin's finishing maneuver, which is almost always effective. It's that he can execute it from anywhere in the ring at any time. And he often goes for the "stunner" early in a match. Sure, Austin's entire game plan is built around the move, but very few wrestlers have been able to stop it. That's because he executes it so quickly.

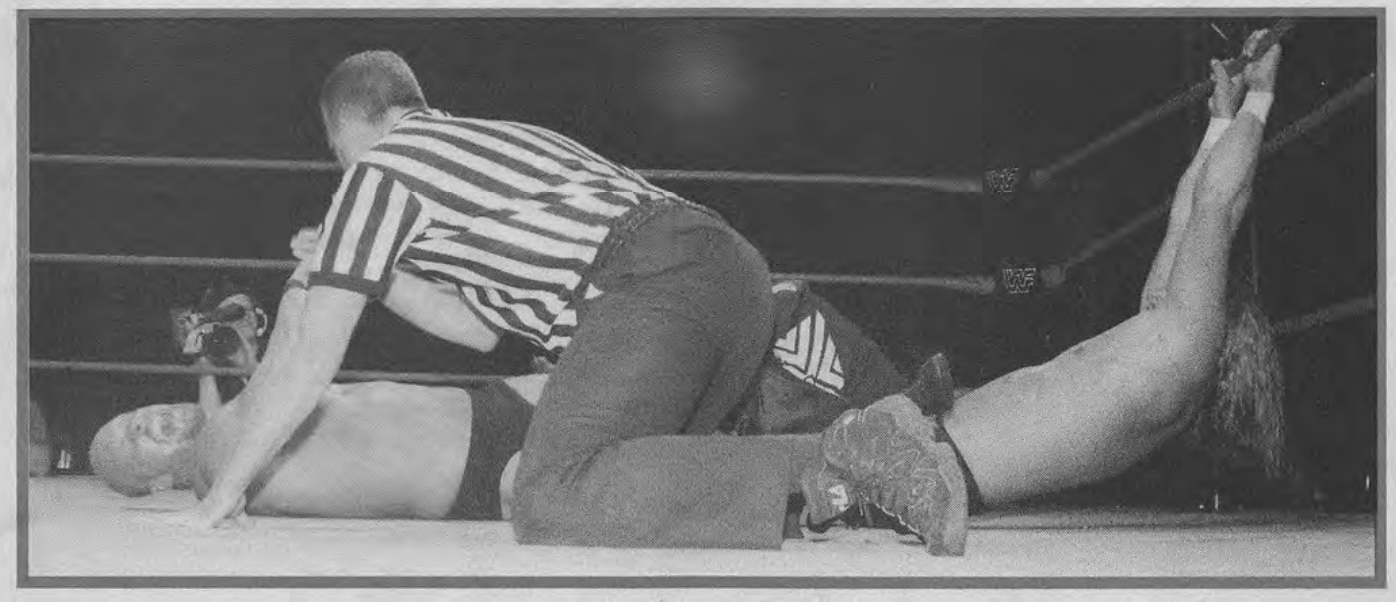
3. HE JUST DOESN'T CARE. "'Cause 'Stone-Cold' said so" has become a mantra for individualism and callous disregard for the conventions of society. Austin does what he wants when he wants to do it. He is constantly reinventing the rules—or simply making up new ones. This makes him dangerous because he won't stop at anything to win. He's mean. He's angry. And he has a fierce killer instinct.

4. RESILIENCY. Austin doesn't lose many matches, but when he does, he almost always bounces right back to win the next one. Austin never gets too high or too low. He's on a steady keel that allows him to retain his focus at all times. He always has a plan and will do anything to make sure it is carried out. Austin never beats himself. He never allows setbacks to affect him. It's the mark of a champion.

5. HE DOESN'T NEED HELP. Sure, Austin has had partners in his career. He's a former WCW and WWF tag team champion and has been managed by Paul E. Dangerously, Col. Rob Parker, and Ted DiBiase. But those pairings made Austin realize he was better off on his own. He never won a world heavyweight title when he had their help, so why does he need anyone now? He likes getting the job done himself.

AUSTIN

HOW TO BEAT HIM



Hunter Hearst Helmsley uses the ropes for leverage on his figure-four leglock against Austin. "Triple-H" had the right idea by targeting Austin's knees. Austin's foes would fare better if they went after his legs.

1. ATTACK THE KNEE. Austin underwent knee surgery while in WCW several years ago and never allowed it to completely recover. People have seen Austin limping slightly on humid days, and it's clear the knee remains vulnerable to attack. In fact, it might never be 100 percent. Somehow, opponents seem to have forgotten this, and attacks rarely concentrate on "Stone-Cold's" lower region. It's a mistake.

2. ATTACK THE BACK. This one is obvious. Austin suffered acute spinal trauma when Owen Hart piledrived him at SummerSlam '97, and many people thought his career was over. But Austin was intent on gaining revenge and continuing his title drive very quickly. He remains at risk.

3. FOOL HIM. Use Austin's dependency on the "Stone-Cold stunner" against him. Let him think early on in a match that he's in position to use the "stunner." He'll almost always set it up with a kick to the stomach. Be ready for the kick. Grab his leg and reverse the kick into a submission hold. Although the "stunner" is a lethal weapon, Austin telegraphs it 90 percent of time. Making him try to use it at the wrong time is half the battle.

4. STALL, STALL, STALL. Austin always goes all-out from the start and thrives when the match turns into a fast-paced brawl. If you keep retreating to the ropes or bailing out of the ring for the occasional breather, he'll get frustrated and might be more apt to make a mistake. More importantly, you don't allow him to establish a rhythm.

5. BREAK ALL THE RULES. Austin flaunts his disrespect for the rulebook. The problem is, he gets away with breaking the rules. So there's only one option: Break them back. Create an environment of anarchy inside the ring. Put the referee in a position in which he has no choice but to start enforcing every rule. Austin once said the rulebook is his greatest enemy. Use it against him.

CHRIS

WHY TO FEAR HIM

1. THE "CRIPPLER CROSSFACE." It's one of the most dangerous finishers in wrestling. And Benoit loves to use it whenever possible. The "Crippler crossface" results in a submission more than 95 percent of the time, according to WCW commentator Mike Tenay, and is applied with complete confidence by Benoit. "I know it works," Benoit said. "I've seen it."

2. HE'S ULTRA-INTENSE. With Benoit, the intensity begins the moment he wakes up on the morning of a match. It continues throughout the day and starts to peak when he arrives at the arena. And Benoit doesn't take off his game face until hours after a match ends. "He's incredibly focused," said Dallas Page. "I have to give him credit for that."

3. HE HAS INCREDIBLE STAMINA. Benoit has often told us that if he had to, he could wrestle 90 minutes or more at peak effectiveness. We don't know if that's true, but we know he's in outstanding aerobic conditioning. "I believe that," said Ric Flair, who has wrestled 90-minute matches. "He watches his diet, he spends a lot of time in the gym, and he's in great shape."

4. THE ROLLING GERMAN SUPLEX. As if the "crossface" wasn't enough, Benoit can also finish off an opponent with this unusual maneuver. He'll use the German suplex, then stand up and do it again ... and again ... and again. "It's effective, isn't it?" Benoit said smugly. It certainly is.

5. EXPERIENCE. Benoit's been wrestling for 12 years, but only over the past few years has he gotten noticed by a national audience. "For the longest time, I just couldn't get over the hump and I couldn't understand why," Benoit said. "After all, I had more talent than 99 percent of the wrestlers out there. But when I finally made it, I vowed to myself that I'd never be at the bottom again."

Benoit clamps his "Crippler crossface" on Mike Enos. Although this is an effective submission hold, Benoit also relies on an equally dazing rolling German suplex to stagger his opponents.

BENOIT

HOW TO BEAT HIM

1. PLAY ON HIS DISTRUST. Benoit's paranoia comes from his years at the bottom of the wrestling pack. He's convinced there was some kind of conspiracy to keep him there. Now Benoit remains distrusting because of his experiences with the NWO and The Four Horsemen. Play on this distrust. Keep Benoit looking over his shoulder. Make him think that somebody's about to do him wrong.

2. MAKE HIM PLAY THE POWER GAME. Deep-down inside, Benoit knows he's not a power wrestler. Of course not. He's a scientific wrestler. But he has such a huge ego that he can't resist matching power with larger, more powerful wrestlers. It's as if he has to prove to the world that he's capable of doing anything. The truth is, he isn't.

3. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HIS GAME-DAY INTENSITY. Bother him. If you're an opponent, call him in his hotel room. Keep calling him. When he goes down to the hotel restaurant for lunch, make sure you're sitting at the next table. When he arrives at the arena, make sure he knows you're there. Talk to him in the ring. Do everything possible to distract him. He'll hate you for it.

4. ROLL THE ROLLING GERMAN SUPLEX INTO YOUR OWN SUPLEX. "Stringing together moves is a great strategy, but it can work against you, too," said Ric Flair. "The problem is that you're doing one move after another and not paying attention to what the other guy is doing. You're susceptible to a reversal." Benoit's suplex can be turned into yours if it's done at the right time.

5. GET IT OVER WITH QUICKLY. Most of Benoit's game plan is geared toward long matches and wearing down his opponent. The best way to beat him is to do it quickly. Attack him before the bell with an all-out assault. Throw everything you have at Benoit in the first three minutes. Because let's face it: If you don't beat him quickly, you're probably not going to beat him at all.

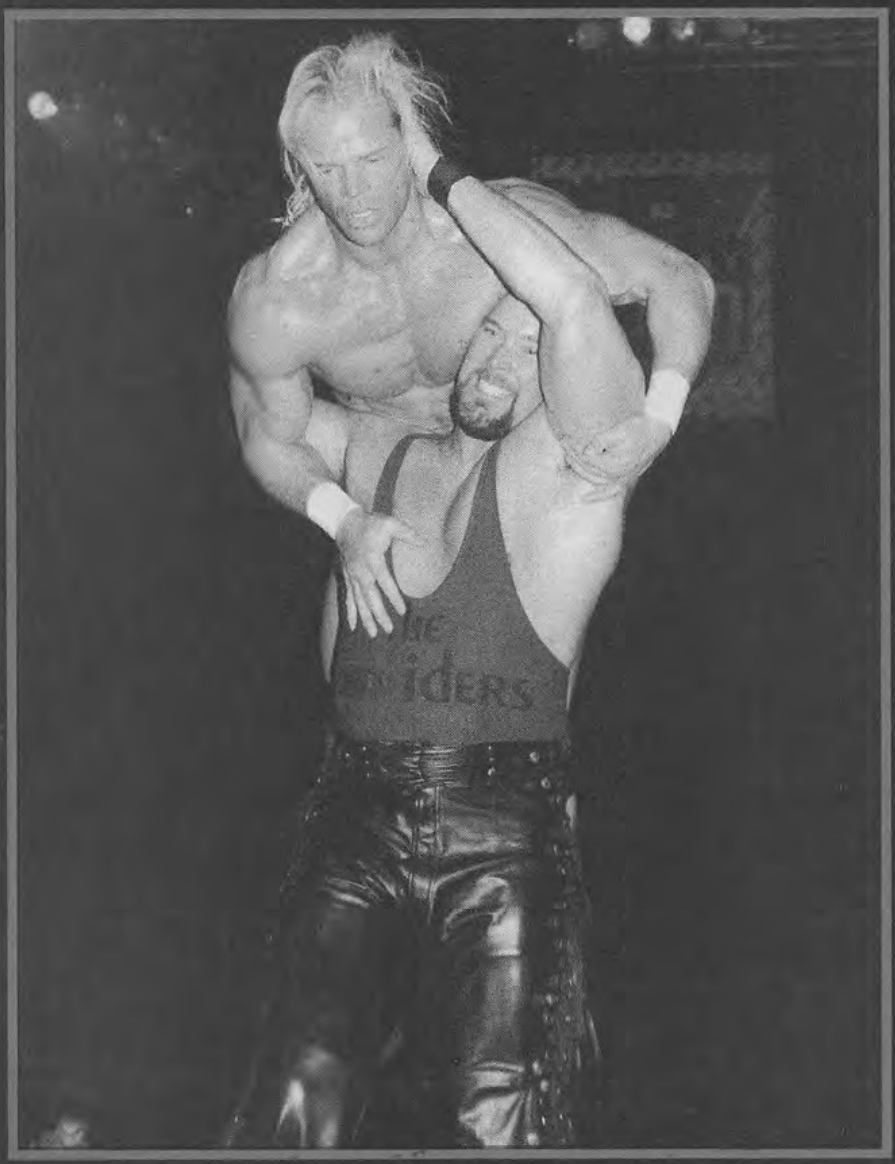
Eddy Guerrero gets a grip on Benoit. Guerrero, as we have seen by his treatment of his nephew Chavo Jr., is a master at getting under someone's skin. Is it possible that he got inside Benoit's head prior to this match?

KEVIN

WHY TO FEAR HIM

1. HE'S 7', 356 POUNDS. ISN'T THAT ENOUGH? Well, it should be, especially because Nash knows how to use his size. The man formerly known as Diesel is a former WWF World heavyweight champion and one of the most powerful men in the sport's history. "He looks even bigger than he is," said Lex Luger. "You stand next to him and realize how imposing he really is."

"Big Sexy" Kevin Nash has Lex Luger exactly where he wants him. Now a member of The Wolfpac, Luger can attest to Nash's intimidating size, which is his greatest asset.



2. HE CAN STAY ON HIS FEET. Some of wrestling's strongest men fall over their own feet. All their power is in their upper bodies, and they're relatively easy to take down. Not so with Nash, who at times can be nearly impossible to bring down. In many of his recent matches with The Giant, Nash was like granite. The Giant is 7'4", and even he had trouble chopping "Big Sexy" down.

3. HE'S A WINNER. Nash's cockiness comes from the knowledge that he's won everywhere he's wrestled. In the WWF, where he was World and Intercontinental champion, and in WCW, where he was World tag team champion with former partner Scott Hall. His confidence comes out when he speaks and when he wrestles. Nash always enters the ring expecting to win.

4. HE'S FEARLESS. Trying to strike fear into the heart of Nash? Try again. Not much fazes Nash, who walks through life without ever looking over his shoulder. "Why should I have any fears?" Nash asked. "Nobody's ever been able to hurt me. I've been beaten, sure, but never hurt. And when I lose, it's usually because of something I've done, not something my opponent did."

5. THE "JACKKNIFE" POWER BOMB. Thought we forgot, didn't you? Well, how could we forget the most dangerous power bomb in the sport—a power bomb unlike any other because of the force Nash puts behind it. Nash's power bomb is in a league of its own. You've never felt a power bomb until you've felt this one. But you might never feel it again. It's illegal in WCW.

NASH

HOW TO BEAT HIM

1. ATTACK HIS KNEES. If you are going to bring down Nash, it's going to be from his knees first. Nash has suffered several knee injuries through his career and occasionally walks with a limp. It is his main area of vulnerability. According to Nash, however, his knees are as good as new.

2. KEEP THE MATCH GOING. Although Nash has surprisingly good stamina for a big man, he isn't at his best after 15 minutes and likes to finish his matches in 10 minutes or less. He has concentrated mostly on tag teams over the past few years, and his stamina has suffered. And most of his opponents are big men, too. Test Nash's stamina. See if he really can go the distance.

3. GIVE HIM REASON TO FEEL CONFIDENT. Bret Hart's strategy against Nash at the 1995 Survivor Series worked perfectly. The "Hitman" went into that bout knowing he was going to absorb a lot of punishment, and he did. He also figured that if Nash dominated, he'd get cocky and make a key error. And he did. Nash took his time finishing off Hart. Hart stunned him by rolling him up, pinning him, and taking the WWF title.

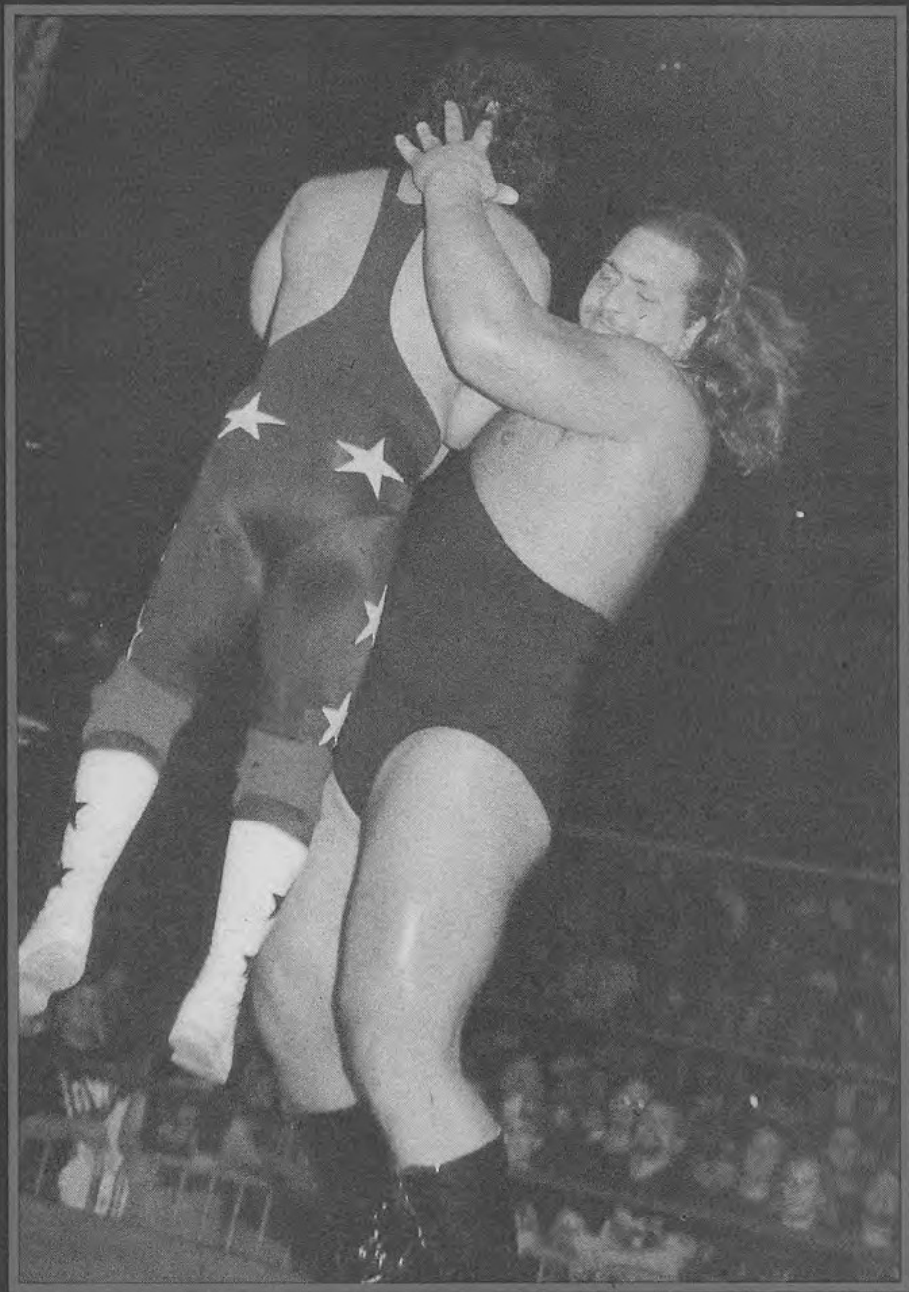
4. JOIN HIM, THEN BEAT HIM. Nash is so obsessed with the NWO Wolfpac vs. NWO Hollywood feud that he's blinded by everyone else. This way of beating him is a long-term plan that involves joining The Wolfpac, then turning against it. Although it wouldn't result in winning a match, it would accord you a rare opportunity to catch Nash off-guard. Scott Hall did.

Although Nash appears to have the upper hand on DDP, it could be that Page is just stalling—dragging the match out so as to wear Nash down. The longer the match lasts, the better the chance Page has of beating him.

5. DON'T PLAY INTO HIS HANDS. Don't get busy early. Don't match power against Nash's power. Don't try to end the match too soon. Don't try to lift or slam Nash. He'll simply lift *you* and slam *you* to the mat. Wrestle scientifically. Move quickly. Take rests by stepping outside the ring. Frustrate him. Let him know that you don't fear him and you've already won part of the battle.

THE

WHY TO FEAR HIM



The Giant choke-slams El Dandy en route to another victory. Whether you are a Luchadore like El Dandy or a rival giant like Kevin Nash, there is no defense against this move once The Giant gets his grip.

1. THE CHOKE-SLAM. So dangerous and lethal that it was nearly banned, the choke-slam is one of the most effective finishing maneuvers in wrestling history. It's made even more effective by the fact that The Giant drops his opponent throat-first from a height of 7'4". "The choke-slam should be banned," said Dr. Henry Rothschild of Atlanta. "The potential for paralysis or rupture of the windpipe is enormous."

2. 7'4", 430 POUNDS. Wrestling against a man of such extreme size—even one with a limited repertoire—poses problems. "You need to take him down, but that's almost impossible," Lex Luger said. "Chops and punches don't work because he's so solidly built. And you can't clothesline him, because you can't get up there. It's like wrestling a building."

3. CONFIDENCE. The Giant knows he's good. He knows he can win. In 1996, he became the first rookie to win the WCW World title, and he held the belt for nearly four months before losing it to Hollywood Hogan. Just think of this: The Giant has only been in the sport for three years. Imagine how good he *can* be.

4. NWO HOLLYWOOD. If it wasn't enough that The Giant is big and dangerous, now he has one of the most powerful cliques in wrestling on his side. The balance of power in WCW just seemed more fair when Hogan and The Giant were on opposite sides.

5. POWER UPON POWER. And we're not just talking about the power bomb, which The Giant occasionally uses. We're talking about a man who's more powerful than he looks. He spends time in the gym and is constantly improving on the other parts of his game. The Giant knows just being big isn't enough.

GIANT

HOW TO BEAT HIM

1. KEEP HIM MOVING. "Have you ever seen a 7'4" man run the 40-yard dash?" asked Dean Malenko. "Well, I haven't, but you know what they say, the bigger they are, the harder they fall." The Giant prefers a plodding style. Keep him moving—wrestle the match at an up tempo—and he'll get into trouble. Malenko's right: The Giant falls over his own two feet.

2. ATTACK HIS LEGS. As Luger said, The Giant is nearly impossible to bring down. But he's totally impossible to bring down by attacking his chest and head. The only way is to attack his roots—his legs and feet. It's the least sturdy part of his body and the part most vulnerable to attack. "Fast leg kicks and sweeps," Ric Flair said. "And you'll also avoid the choke-slam."

3. USE A VARIED ATTACK. Let's face it, The Giant has been in the sport for less than three years. He hasn't seen everything. The Giant has tried to vary his attack and learn new things, but he remains at heart a power wrestler who doesn't want to match moves. Beat him with science. Use every move you know. Come up with some new ones. Use the element of surprise against The Giant to keep him off-balance.

4. WORK ON HIS MIND. Sure, The Giant is a member of NWO Hollywood, but does anybody really think Hogan and Eric Bischoff would come to his defense? Of course not. The Giant was recruited to NWO Hollywood because Hogan was afraid of putting up his title against him. Prey on The Giant's fears: that his buddies are really his enemies. Talk to him. Keep him second-guessing.

5. MAKE IT LAST. Never, ever go for the early kill against The Giant. "The man likes to end things early," Sting said. "He can't go at peak effectiveness for more than 10 minutes. Keep him moving, get him out of breath. The Giant has better stamina than most big men I've seen, maybe because he's so young, but he has his limits. Find those limits and take him beyond them."

Hollywood Hogan lands a right to The Giant's head. We recommend a more scientific approach to wrestling The Giant. Nobody, not even the Hogan of the mid-'80s, could match The Giant's power.

KEN

WHY TO FEAR HIM

Ken Shamrock earned the nickname "The World's Most Dangerous Man" through his UFC accomplishments. Here Shamrock exhibits the UFC influence by landing a kick to the chest of I-C champ Rocky Maivia.

1. RECKLESS DISREGARD. WWF Intercontinental champ Rocky Maivia had already submitted to Shamrock's anklelock at WrestleMania XIV but Shamrock, who wanted to inflict even more pain, refused to break the hold. Then he attacked several federation officials. Eventually, the decision was reversed and Maivia kept the belt. The man is intent on hurting people.

2. ULTIMATE FIGHTING BACKGROUND. The Ultimate Fighting Championship is just that ... an ultimate fighting championship. Those who survive the rigors of the UFC wars are among the greatest athletes and fighters in the world. Shamrock, a UFC veteran, has wrestled against every possible style of competitor. There aren't many moves he hasn't seen. Trying to surprise Shamrock? Good luck.

3. THE ANKLELOCK. Ric Flair once said that the most effective maneuvers in wrestling are the simplest ones. "You can't spend all day putting on a hold," Flair said. "The fewer little intricacies there are to a hold, the harder it is to counter." Shamrock's anklelock is a model of simplicity, yet many of those who have fallen to it say they've never felt anything as painful.

4. INTENSITY. Shamrock isn't in this for fun. He's in it to win. When he arrived in the WWF more than a year ago, Shamrock looked like a workmanlike wrestler who would take his time getting to the top. Instead, Shamrock soared to the top with an incredible winning streak, crushing everyone in his path. Some wrestlers are always at an even keel. Shamrock's always on high energy.

5. HE CAN TAKE IT. If you're going to compete in the UFC, you need to have a high threshold of pain. You have to be ready for anything, because for the most part, anything goes. Sure, Shamrock has suffered some injuries as a wrestler, but he won't let a little pain hinder him during a match. You can use submission holds to wear him down, but don't expect to see him tap out.

SHAMROCK

HOW TO BEAT HIM

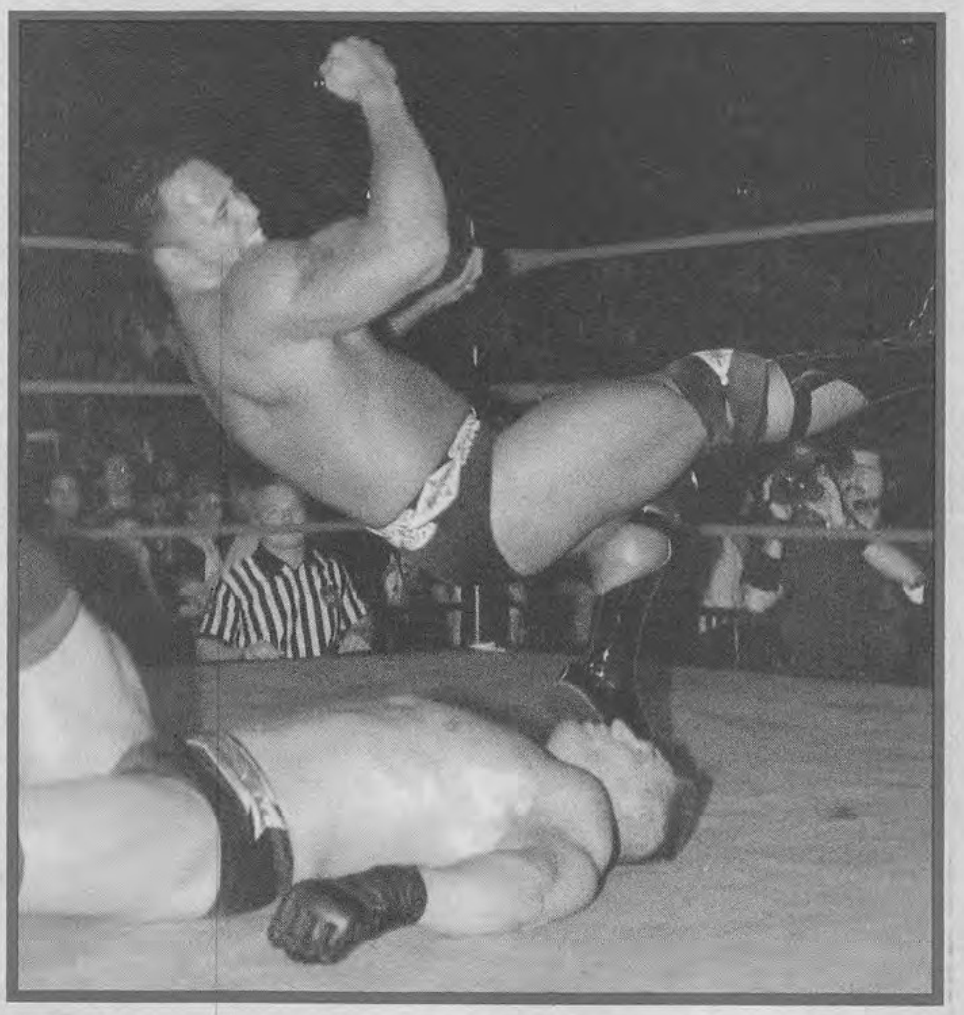
1. USE HIS TEMPER AGAINST HIM. Shamrock doesn't have a bad temper. He has an *uncontrollable* temper. "The guy just snaps," said Rocky Maivia, who certainly knows all about snapping. "There's no reasoning with him when he goes out of his mind. He turns into an animal." But a hot-tempered wrestler is never effective. The trick is to get Shamrock angry and out of control early in a match so he forgets his game plan.

2. CONCENTRATE ON HIS LEGS. Shamrock has a history of leg problems and recently had his right ankle broken by Owen Hart. Leg problems are usually permanent. A cracked ankle bone rarely heals completely. Shamrock is going to be vulnerable for the remainder of his wrestling career. Attack the vulnerability with kicks and leglocks. Make Shamrock change directions quickly.

3. PREPARE FOR THE ANKLELOCK. When Shamrock is ready to go in for the kill, he'll use a belly-to-belly suplex to set up the anklelock. The belly-to-belly is a well-telegraphed move. The opponents' job is either to counter the belly-to-belly and avoid the anklelock or to be prepared for the anklelock following the belly-to-belly.

4. DRAW OUT THE MATCH. Although Shamrock is in outstanding aerobic condition and could most likely endure a 30-minute match, his stamina hasn't been tested. UFC matches are often short; the combatants compete all-out for short periods of time, like Greco-Roman wrestlers. Shamrock might be able to last 30 minutes, but he also might get confused and frustrated. Find out.

5. BLIND HIM WITH SCIENCE. "If you ask me," said Owen Hart, whom we did ask, "Shamrock has a limited scientific background. He's seen a lot of those UFC-style wrestlers, sure, and they have a lot of moves, but he hasn't seen everything. The trick against Shamrock is to avoid the power moves and just go after him with plenty of sweetness."

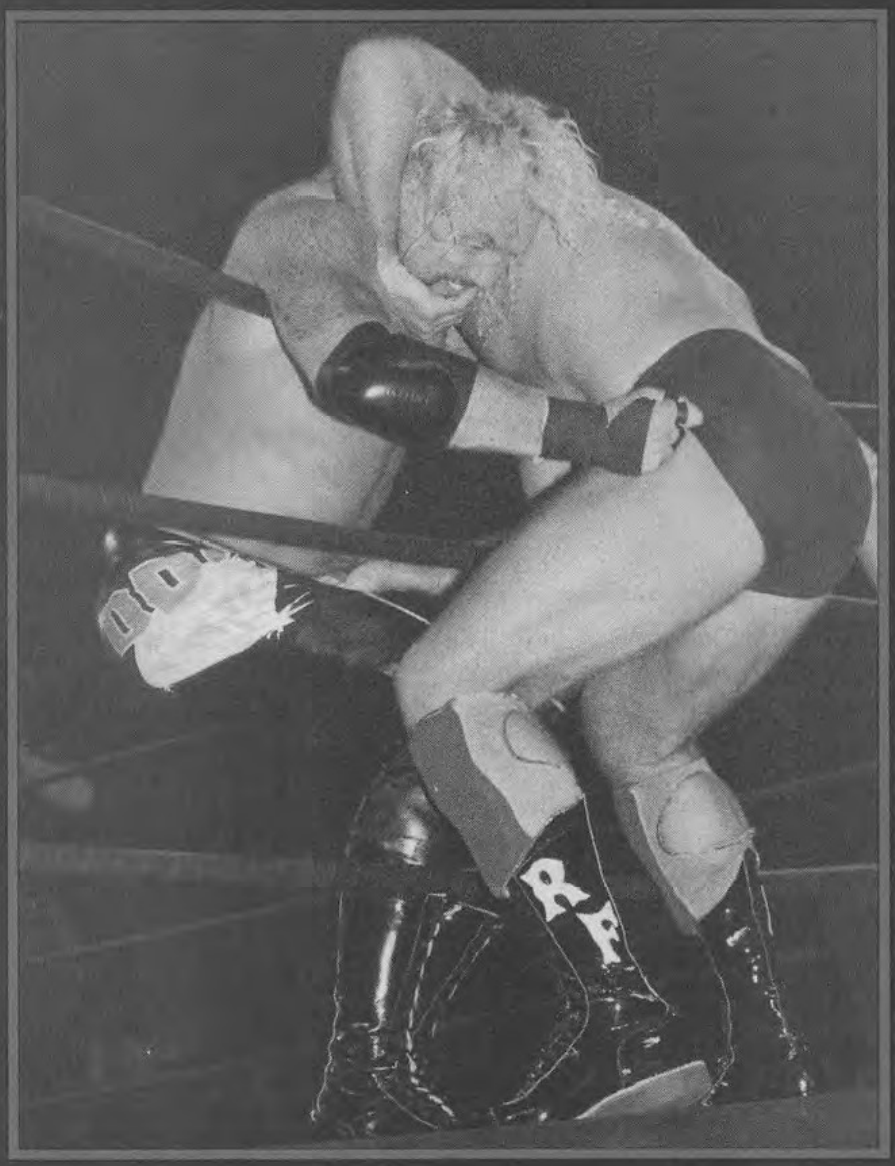


"The Rock" lands "the people's elbow" on Shamrock. Throughout their feud, Rocky Maivia has been able to hang on to his title by using Shamrock's bad temper against him. Shamrock is ineffective once he sees red.

"DIAMOND"

WHY TO FEAR HIM

"Diamond" Dallas Page "helps" Ric Flair back into the ring. Few wrestlers in WCW possess DDP's versatility. He can snap a suplex or cinch an armbar as quickly as he can throw a punch.



1. DRIVING HUNGER. Dallas Page knows what's it's like to be at the bottom of the barrel. A few years ago, he had no money and sunk so low that he took a part-time job as a clerical aid for this magazine. He knows what it's like to have nothing. His rise to the top of his profession has been one of the best stories of this decade. And he wants more.

2. THE "DIAMOND CUTTER." One of wrestling's most lethal finishing maneuvers is dangerous enough as it is. But Page has the ability to execute the "Diamond cutter" from all angles—and from any area of the ring. We've seen opponents jump on Page's back for a sleeper and Page quickly and effortlessly reverse it into a "Diamond cutter." Page has truly perfected his signature move.

3. HE CAN BEAT ANYONE. Brawlers. Scientific wrestlers. Little men. Big men. Plodding giants. Speedsters. Page's impressive record over the past year includes victories over Chris Benoit, Kevin Nash, Raven, Randy Savage, Curt Hennig, and many others. This is truly the mark of greatness, when a wrestler can excel against an opponent of any style. Page has no reason to fear anyone.

4. HE CAN TAKE THE PAIN. Page had his injured ribs taped for the longest time before he removed the wrapping recently. He has withstood attacks by Savage and Raven's Flock. He has withstood humiliation. And he has always fought back. "I know what pain really is, and it's not physical," Page said. "It's mental."

5. HE'S BIG AND STRONG. At 6'5", 260 pounds, Page can match up against all but the giants of wrestling. He can't be overpowered and is rarely outsized. Although Page might be able to move a little better if he were a few inches shorter and about 15 pounds lighter, he knows how to use his power. Sure, he isn't the quintessential big man, but he can throw his weight around.

DALLAS PAGE

HOW TO BEAT HIM

1. REMIND HIM OF HIS PAST. Page doesn't like hearing about his failures. He doesn't like it when people remind him that not long ago he appeared to be washed up and was begging for work. An opponent can gain a psychological advantage over Page by walking up to him during the introductions and whispering, "You're going to be a has-been again."

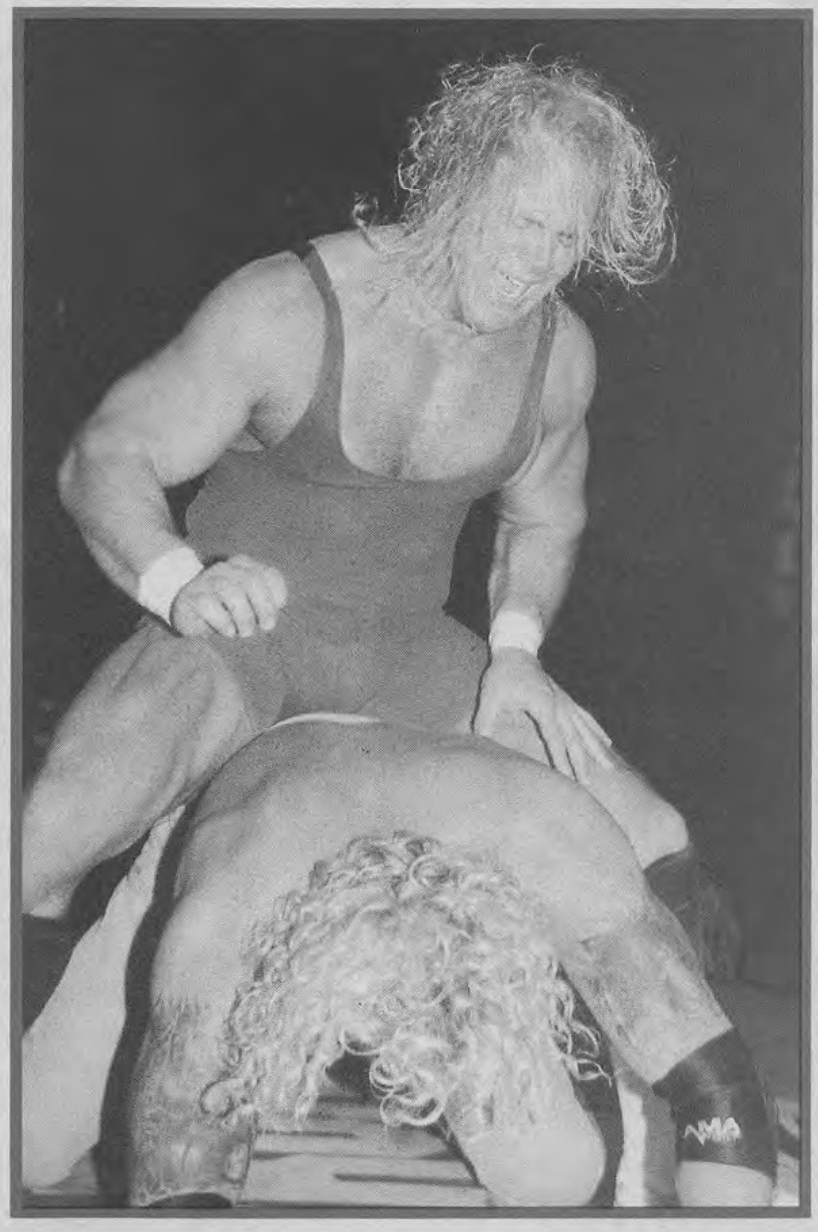
2. DRAW OUT THE MATCH. Although Page isn't lacking in stamina, he looked a little tired late in his matches against Chris Benoit, who has spectacular stamina. Page likes to end his matches as quickly as possible. Like most big men, he's at his best when a match lasts less than 10 minutes. And he might not have enough moves to wrestle in the 20-to-30-minute range on a consistent basis.

3. ATTACK THOSE RIBS. Sure, Page has learned to live with pain, but how much pain can he withstand? How long can he wrestle with a broken rib or two? At what point does his pain threshold simply cave in? Go after those ribs. Attack the weakness. Punch and kick, harder and harder still. No man can take the intense pain of broken ribs and bruised kidneys.

4. ENGAGE HIM IN CONVERSATION. "He's one the biggest talkers I've ever seen," said Chris Benoit. "You start talking to him and he'll always talk back." Page is easily distracted. Talk to him. Get him going on the most irrelevant subjects. It'll take his mind off the action in the ring and leave him vulnerable.

5. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HIS LOVE FOR KIMBERLY. Here's where it really gets personal. The biggest mistake of Page's career was letting everyone know he was married to the lovely Kimberly. Opponents started using Kimberly as a weapon against Page. Target Kimberly and you're targeting Page. This might sound like a cheap tactic, but it works. Just ask Randy Savage.

Curt Hennig works on Page's bad ribs. It is no secret to his opponents that Page's ribs are chronically injured, despite that fact that DDP has removed the telltale bandages.



CACTUS

WHY TO FEAR HIM

Cactus Jack lays Billy Gunn out with a clothesline—outside the ring. Cactus is almost unbeatable once the action spills to ringside or deteriorates into a brawl.

1. HE'S SO UNPREDICTABLE. Forget about whether he's Cactus Jack, Mick Foley, Mankind, or Dude Love. These days, all of his characters have blended together almost seamlessly to form one mental maniac. You never know what he's going to do next because *he* doesn't know what he's going to do next. Even his unpredictability is unpredictable.

2. HE'S FEARLESS. What else can you say about a man who thrives on falls-count-anywhere matches, who never saw a rule he liked, who doesn't mind having chairs smashed against his head and tables dropped on his back? What can you say about a man who was totally at home locked in a garbage dumpster and has often said, "I like pain. Pain is fun."

3. THE MANDIBLE CLAW. He used to use it only in his Mankind character. Now he uses it all the time. The claw, an unorthodox crippler that closes off the windpipe, is nearly impossible to counter once applied and can do serious damage. Opponents fear it because the pain is immediate and long-lasting. It results in a submission more than 90 percent of the time.

4. VINCE IS ON HIS SIDE. These days in the WWF, you're either on Vince McMahon's side or you're against him. Cactus Jack is on Vince's side and is one of the weapons the WWF head has used in his war against Steve Austin. As a result, Cactus gets special privileges. "Only time will tell how this works to his advantage—or disadvantage—but it can't be a bad thing," said WWF broadcaster Jim Ross.

5. EXPERIENCE. He started at the bottom, stayed there for a long time, and reached the top. He has wrestled against and with some of the greatest names in the sport. Cactus Jack is comfortable in a ring and in all kinds of matches, and he knows his way around. He has seen it all and done it all. It has turned him into a better wrestler.

JACK

HOW TO BEAT HIM

1. WRESTLE AS CONVENTIONALLY AS POSSIBLE. Never, ever get drawn into Cactus Jack's manic style of wrestling. Don't play his game. Play your own. You don't want to brawl with Jack. You'll lose. You want to keep the match slow and methodical, as scientific as possible. Get him into a wrestling-counterwrestling mode. Cactus can't win playing that style.

2. USE HIS SPLIT PERSONALITY AGAINST HIM. There's no doubt about it: Cactus Jack frequently hears voices inside his head. He has several personalities. The trick is to prey on this weakness in a psychological way. When he's Jack, talk to him as if he's Mankind. When he's Dude Love, talk to him as if he's Jack. Confuse him. Make him confront his craziness.

3. COUNTER CLAW WITH CLAW. There's one problem with the mandible claw as a finisher. It opens up Jack to a claw by his opponent. Claw him first. Better yet, use Jack's mandible claw against him. Beat him at his own game. It won't take Jack long to realize why proponents of the claw have always had to find themselves another finisher. Sooner or later.

4. ENGAGE HIM IN A POWER STRUGGLE. Jack is big (6'4", 277 pounds), but he lacks power. "He's the weakest big man I've ever seen," said fitness instructor Duke Naughton, who has worked out with a lot of wrestlers. "The man has absolutely no power." That's because Jack pays very little attention to physical fitness. You'll never find him in a gym. He relies totally on his craziness.

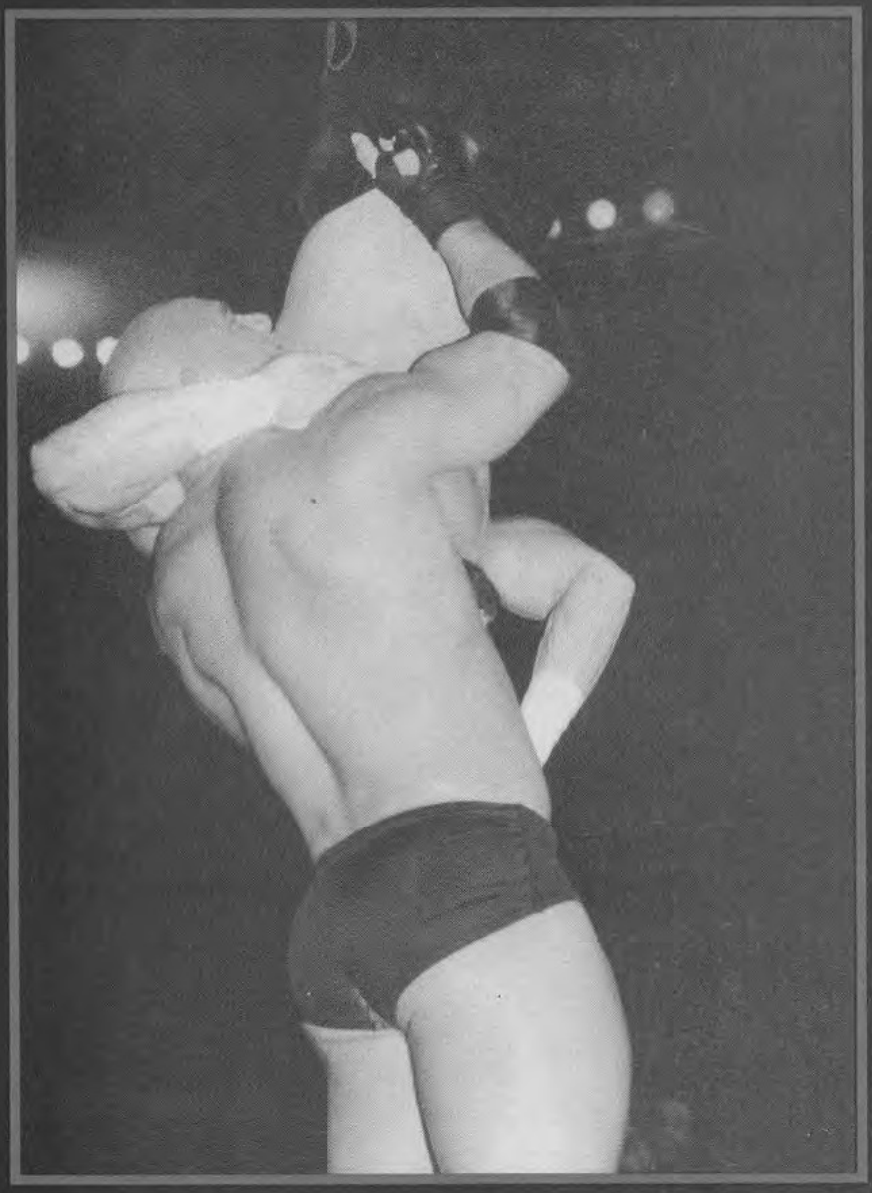
5. KEEP THE MATCH INSIDE THE RING. Like we said, Cactus Jack is a master of falls-count-anywhere matches. He loves battling on the ring apron and the arena floor, smashing an opponent's head into the safety rail, or ramming him against the ringpost. Keep Jack inside the ring and you've won half the battle. The other half will be won when Jack realizes his brawling style has been constricted by ropes and four turnbuckles.

Kane gets ready to choke-slam Mankind. Although he is big by most standards, Mick Foley and the cast of characters inside his head lack the power to contend with super heavyweights like Kane.

BILL

WHY TO FEAR HIM

Bill Goldberg hoists another victim into position for the "jackhammer"—his signature move. Nobody gets up from the "jackhammer."Nobody. Actually, nobody gets up from the spear—a football tackle he uses to set up the "jackhammer."



1. THE JACKHAMMER. The 6'3", 270-pound Goldberg puts every ounce of energy behind his signature move, which he has used on just about every opponent since arriving in WCW last fall. It's a punishing maneuver made even more imposing by the fact that nobody has been able to avoid it. Goldberg seems able to use it at will ... although usually after his opponent has been beaten into submission.

2. THE KILLER INSTINCT. Goldberg had a promising pro football career cut short by injury and turned to wrestling when he realized he had the opportunity to use his athletic ability and powerful body to—in his words— "crush people and make some money doing it." The disappointment of failure in his first love, football, has turned Goldberg into an angry man who won't let failure strike twice.

3. THE WILL TO WIN. Many of Goldberg's opponents, realizing they couldn't let him get the upper hand early in a match, have attempted the strategy of jumping him before the bell. But the move always backfires and makes Goldberg even angrier. And an angry Goldberg is a more dangerous Goldberg. The truth is that most former football players-turned-wrestlers are like this: Getting them mad only serves as a wakeup call.

4. THE SECOND FINISHER. It's a football-type move called the spear in which Goldberg takes a run at his opponent's stomach and spears him right in the gut. "It's tough enough to beat a man like Goldberg when he has one finisher," said Arn Anderson. "Goldberg basically has two, and he could finish you off with either."

5. INDEPENDENCE. The fans love him. The NWO doesn't own him. And neither does WCW. He's in this for himself. And he's not going to do anything for the benefit of a partner or a clique. He wrestles matches to win. He makes his own schedule and doesn't have to help out fallen partners or needy teammates. He is a rare thing in today's wrestling: a star who hasn't been bought.

GOLDBERG

HOW TO BEAT HIM

1. AVOID THE JACKHAMMER. Yeah, right. And avoid Randy Johnson's fastball. Keep Michael Jordan from getting his hands on the ball. Stop John Elway from passing. Keep the sea from rushing to the shore. Well, not exactly. Goldberg's stamina has never been tested. The best way to avoid the "jackhammer" might be to keep Goldberg on the run; maintain a safe distance. See if he gets tired. Pray.

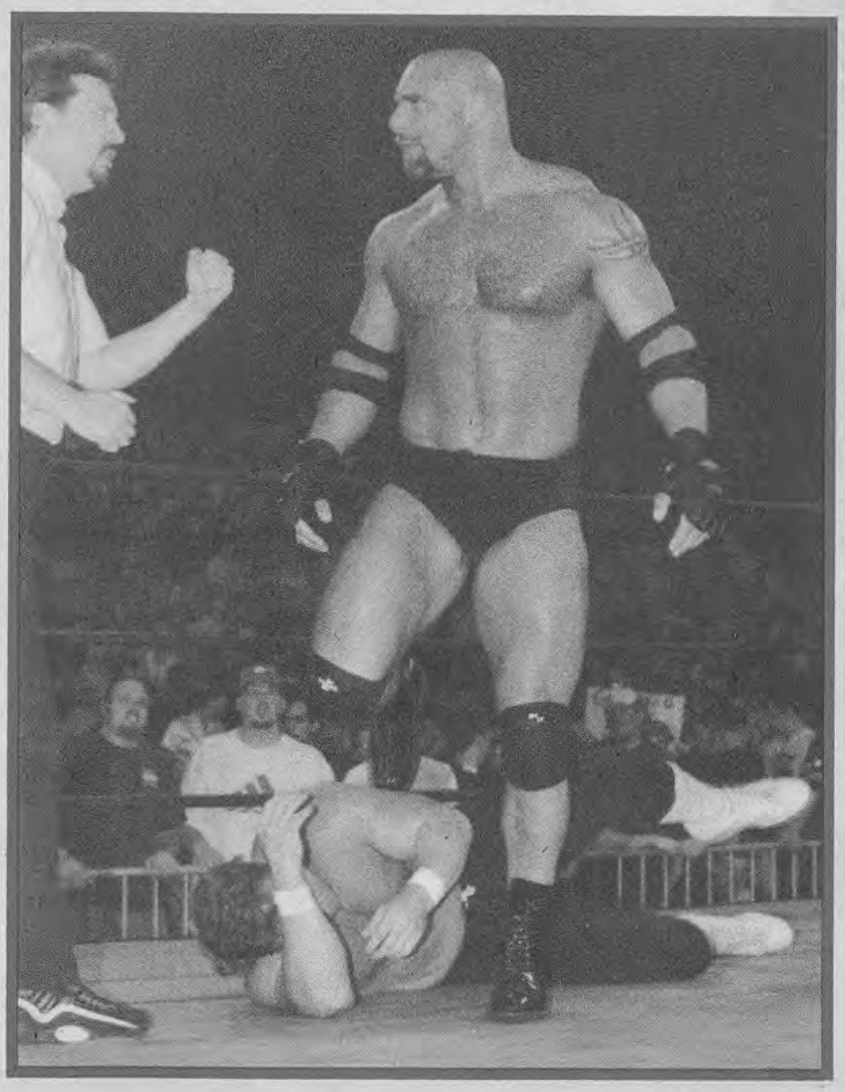
2. ATTACK HIS LEGS. By doing this, an opponent can keep Goldberg off-balance and also test the many injuries Goldberg suffered during his football career. We know Goldberg is injury-prone. That's why he had to quit playing football. Maybe it's time for somebody to work on those legs.

3. REMIND HIM OF HIS FAILURES. Goldberg looks like a can't-miss star in wrestling, right? Well, he looked like a can't-miss star in football, too. The key here is to get inside his mind. Remind him of his football failures. Make him think that lightning can strike twice. Point out Steve McMichael's football successes. That'll really get him hot. He still hates McMichael. And make him realize he has a long way to go to prove his success hasn't been a fluke.

4. COUNTER THE SECOND FINISHER. Is it really so difficult to step out of the way of Goldberg's spear or lift a knee into his forehead? It all seems to simple. Goldberg is allowed to telegraph his moves because opponents are often fear-stricken. They're waiting to lose. But Goldberg's spear shouldn't be an effective wrestling maneuver. *He* should end up laying on the mat in pain sometimes.

5. CATCH HIM NAPPING. The fans love Goldberg; he knows it. After executing a move, Goldberg routinely plays to the crowd—often turning his back on a fallen opponent. That's the time to cash in. While Goldberg is busy showing off, deliver a low blow, hit him with a chair, *do something!* It might be unethical, but it's probably the only way to neutralize "The Man."

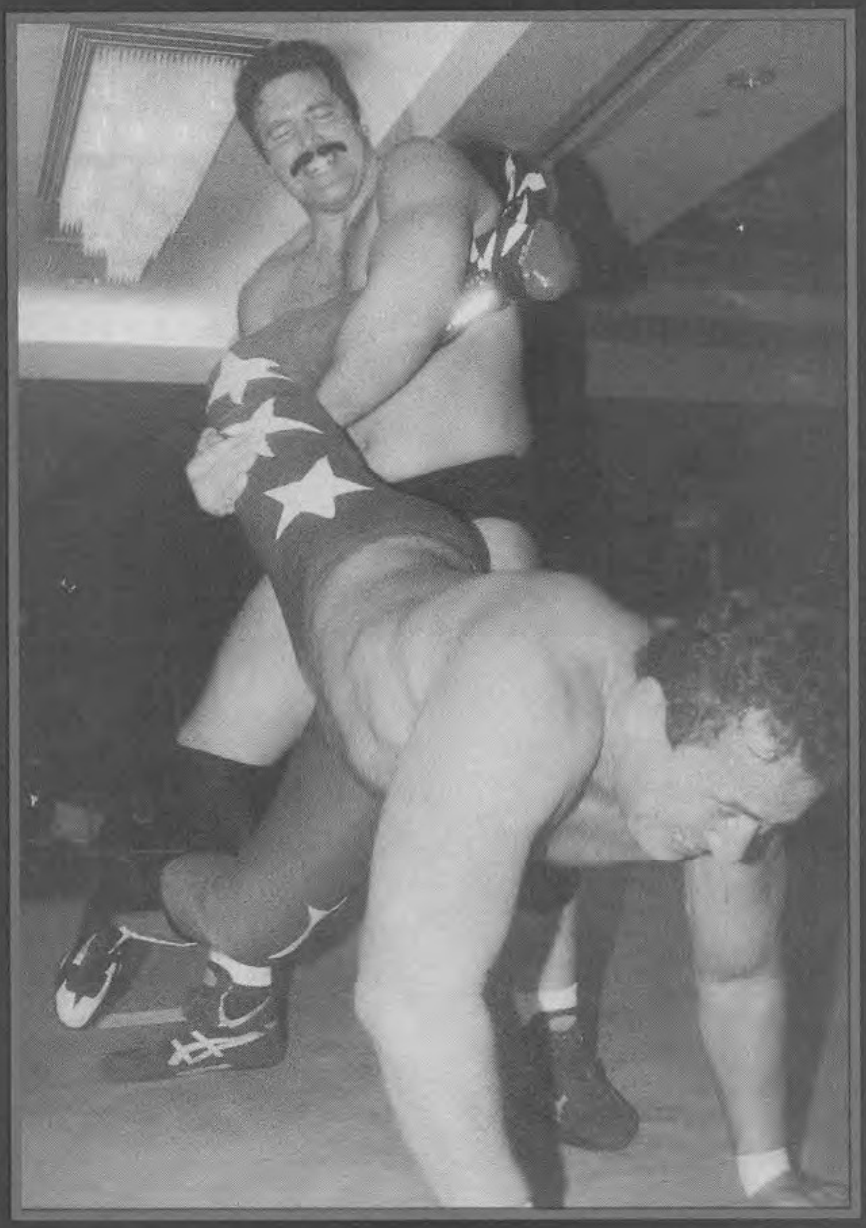
The only chink in Goldberg's armor has been an occasional lack of focus. Sometimes he'll glare at the referee. Other times he'll play to the crowd. That's when his opponents should attack.



DAN

WHY TO FEAR HIM

NWA heavyweight champ Dan Severn uses a leglock on Franz Schuman. Jim Ross says Severn's repertoire is beautiful in its simplicity. Although Severn employs a no-frills approach to wrestling, he is very dangerous.



1. HE'S AN ULTIMATE FIGHTING CHAMPION. Not only did this man compete in the Ultimate Fighting Championship against some of the greatest fighters in the world, but he won two UFC events. Yes, Dan Severn is an Ultimate Fighting Champion, and he has done a good job converting his UFC style to the ring. The UFC turned Severn into a relentless competitor who is prepared to face all styles. Or was he already that way?

2. THE ARMBAR. It's a simple finishing hold—perhaps the most simple finisher in the world. But, like Ken Shamrock's anklelock, it's amazingly effective and achieves its goal about 95 percent of the time. "The thing about Severn's armbar is that it's perfectly executed every time," Jim Ross said. "His style is perfect. And the simplicity of it is beautiful."

3. HE USES SUPLEXES, TOO. And they're not your run-of-the-mill suplexes, like vertical and belly-to-belly. Severn enjoys using an array of offbeat suplexes to his advantage, and you never know what he's going to do next. "I like being different," Severn said. "I think being different gives you an advantage. I want to force my opponents into counterwrestling."

4. HE KNOWS HE'S GOOD. Ken Shamrock strikes fear in the hearts of a lot of wrestlers, but he doesn't frighten Severn, who has already beaten him in UFC competition. Sure, Shamrock has beaten Severn, too, "but at least I don't go around boasting about how I'm going to knock his socks off," Severn said. "Shamrock's all talk because he's scared. I don't have to talk. I know."

5. HE'S RESTED AND FRESH. Although Severn has been wrestling professionally since 1991, he hasn't wrestled much. He rarely defends the NWA heavyweight title. He hasn't faced much top-flight competition. Sure, this can work to his disadvantage, but we know one thing about Severn: He is in excellent physical condition and hasn't been worn down by the rigors of the ring.

SEVERN

HOW TO BEAT HIM

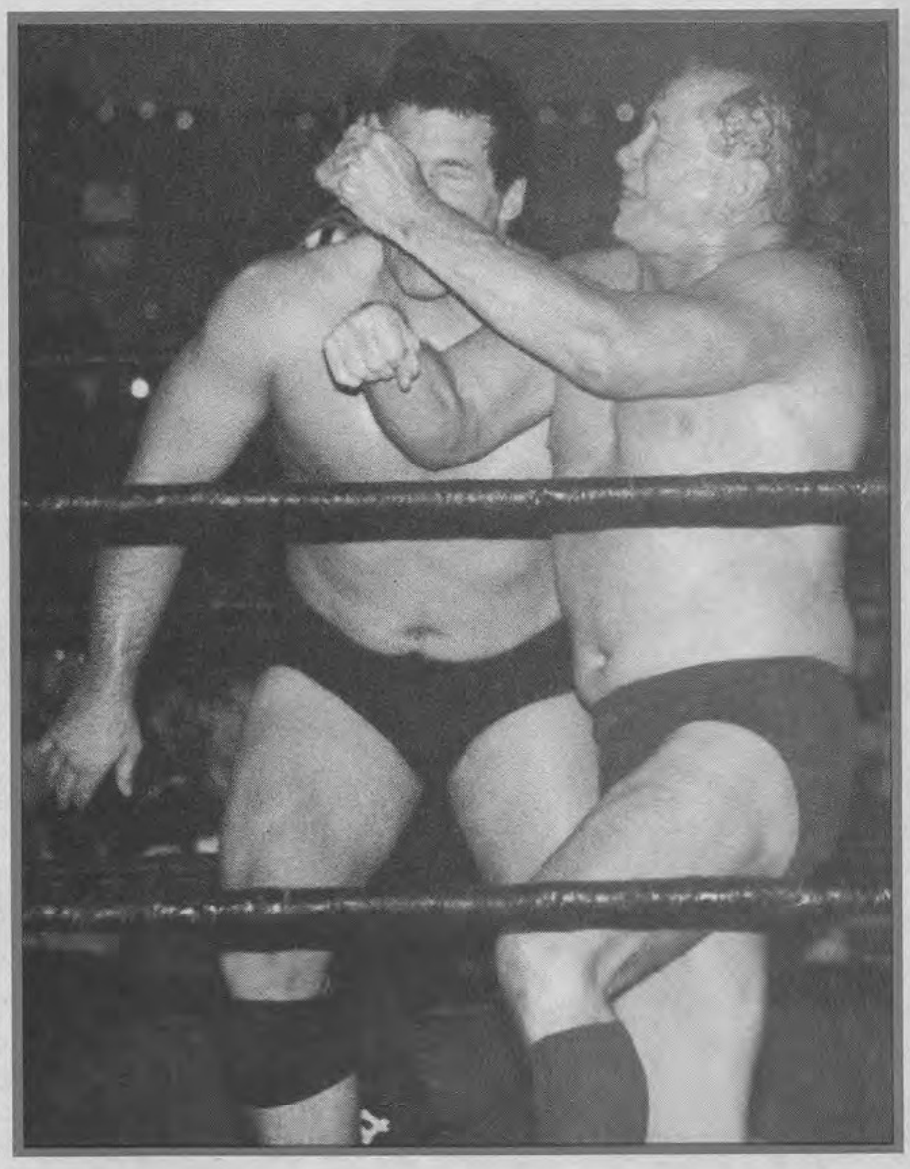
1. REVERSE THE ARMBAR. Perhaps into a sleeper or another submission hold. "Severn's armbar is perfect, but there's that one instant, just a second after he's started applying it, when I think he's vulnerable," Ross said. "Get him there and you might be able to do something." Simple holds are easily countered.

2. TEST HIS STAMINA. Most marathon runners will tell you that after a long layoff, they feel good and well-rested, but they can't run as far as they used to. Severn's relatively light wrestling schedule could work against him. And because he's a UFC-type fighter, he isn't used to long matches. Can Severn hold up in a marathon match against a top star? There's nothing to lose by finding out.

3. TEST HIS VERSATILITY. Because he hasn't wrestled much and has faced few wrestlers in the upper tier of wrestling, Severn might not be used to different moves and combinations of moves. Find out how he reacts and adjusts to new situations. See if he's as versatile as we've been led to believe. Severn might be a one-dimensional wrestler.

4. DON'T WRESTLE A UFC STYLE AGAINST HIM. That means you don't want to engage Severn in a short, all-out battle. Say, eight minutes or less. That's where Shamrock might run into trouble if he tries to test his UFC skills against Severn's. The best bet is to try a fast-moving, 15-minute battle in which a lot of moves are strung together.

5. BREAK THE RULES. Do unconventional things. Use foreign objects. Get Severn outside the ring. The truth about Severn is we don't know all of what he's capable of doing. We don't know how he'll react to unusual situations. But never try to beat Severn at his own game—he's the best at it.



If anybody has a few tricks to use on Severn, it is cagey veteran Dory Funk Jr. Dory may not have the physique or intensity of a Ken Shamrock, but his in-ring experience has given Severn some trouble in their NWA battles.

RANDY

WHY TO FEAR HIM

Randy Savage treads on Dallas Page's throat. The "Macho Man" is one of the most ruthless and unpredictable wrestlers in the world. After 25 years, Savage is as mean as ever.

1. THE EXPERIENCE FACTOR. Savage has been wrestling for 25 years. His father, Angelo Poffo, was a great star in the 1950s and '60s. Wrestling is in his blood. The "Macho Man" is a former WWF and WCW world champion. He was a WWF Intercontinental champion. He has wrestled and beaten every conceivable type of opponent, from Hollywood Hogan to Rick Steamboat. As far as we've seen, he isn't vulnerable to any one style.

2. HE'S ABSOLUTELY, POSITIVELY OUT OF HIS MIND. Savage is the type of man who would attack five armed opponents. "I don't think a rational thought ever goes through his mind," said Eric Bischoff. "Reason isn't in his repertoire. He does things any sane man would never do." That's what makes him so dangerous: Savage doesn't consider the consequences of his actions.

3. HE'S A WINNER. Bottom line on Savage: He is one of the most successful men in wrestling history. You look at him and think, *He isn't very big, and he doesn't look so tough,* then you watch him wrestle and think, *He doesn't do a whole lot.* But he finds ways to win. "I don't think losing ever crosses his mind," WCW commentator Mike Tenay says. "'Macho Man' only thinks about winning."

4. THE FLYING ELBOW. Savage's flying elbow from the top rope is one of the simplest finishing maneuvers in the world. It's also one of the most effective. Savage puts real zeal and energy behind the elbow, and he almost always hits his target. "It's like getting hit by a ton of bricks," Dallas Page said. "It doesn't look like much, but you gotta avoid it."

5. NWO WOLFPAC. Savage has the trust and backing of the fastest-growing clique in the game, enabling him to strike even more frenetically than ever. But Savage walks a fine line. History shows that he doesn't play well with others.

SAVAGE

HOW TO BEAT HIM

1. ATTACK THE ACL. Doctors said Savage would be out for at least six months after he suffered a torn anterior cruciate ligament earlier in the year. The injury turned out to be a partial tear, but it should have sidelined him nonetheless. Savage just keeps on wrestling and remains highly vulnerable to knee attacks. A Bret Hart "sharpshooter" could cripple him permanently.

2. START AN INTER-WOLFPAC FEUD. Get The Wolfpac and Savage mad at each other. "Savage is just a wrong word away from feuding with anybody, anyway," said Dean Malenko. Provide that word. Stir up dissension. Get Savage to the point where he's peeking over his shoulder, waiting to jumped by the rest of The Wolfpac.

3. ATTACK HIM PHYSICALLY. Twenty-five years of wrestling have taken a toll on Savage's body. Compare pictures of Savage today with the Savage of 10 years ago and you'll see a difference. He isn't quite as strong or durable as he used to be. A key to beating Savage is to test his power and the limits of his body.

4. INSULT HIS FAMILY. Remember how angry Savage got when Ric Flair insulted and attacked his father? Well, then you should also remember that Savage had a tough time getting revenge. Savage can be a single-minded person, and that often works against him. Rather than figuring out ways to beat an opponent, he focuses on the insults.

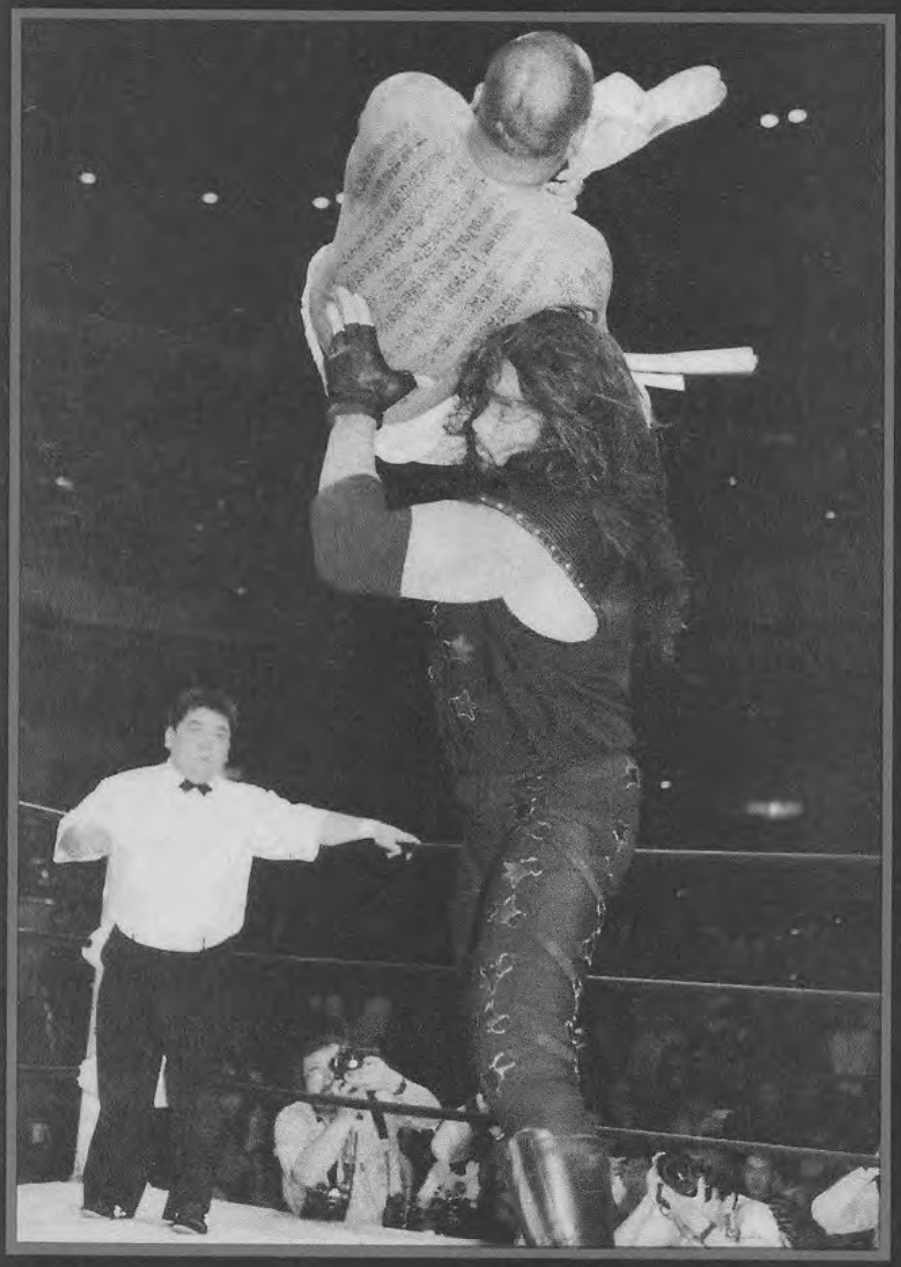
5. DON'T STAND STILL. There was a time when Savage was one of the most agile men in wrestling. Not now. The trick to beating Savage is to make him chase you, to wear him out. "He gets by on courage and determination," said Chris Benoit. "But courage and determination won't get you anywhere when you've run out of gas."

Page is one of the few wrestlers in WCW who can overpower Savage. Given that Savage has a partially torn ACL and 25 years of rough road behind him, other wrestlers can beat him if they adopt the right strategy.

THE

WHY TO FEAR HIM

The Undertaker uses his dreaded choke-slam on Hakushi. Very few deliver the move with more authority than him. His "tombstone" piledriver is equally dangerous.



1. FEAR OF THE UNKNOWN. He hails from "parts unknown," and that just about sums it up, doesn't it? We're pretty certain that The Undertaker doesn't come from the great beyond, but after that, we're not sure. This air of mystery surrounding The Undertaker, and the fact he's able to do some unexplained things, adds to the difficulty of beating him. You just don't know what you're up against.

2. INVINCIBILITY. He's been buried in a coffin. He's been set on fire. He's had his urn taken away. But Undertaker is still standing. Opponents have to be wondering, *How in the world do we keep this guy down?* So far, there has been no answer. And when Undertaker, seemingly on the verge of defeat, pops up like a dead man who's come to life, his air of invincibility gets thicker.

3. HE'S READY FOR ANYTHING. He didn't want to wrestle his brother, Kane. He swore that he would never wrestle Kane. But there he was at WrestleMania XIV, not only wrestling Kane, but beating him. Giving it an all-out effort and treating Kane as he would any opponent. Undertaker has obviously convinced himself that winning is the only thing.

4. THE TOMBSTONE PILEDRIVER. Forget about getting up when a man who's 6'9", 328 pounds of raw power delivers this lethal finishing maneuver. Piledriver victims say it's like getting run over by a Mack truck. Your insides vibrate. It feels like you're going to die. Once 'Taker delivers a "tombstone" or two, it's a pretty safe bet that the match is over.

5. HE WRESTLES HIS WAY. Any wrestler who has tried to speed up his match against The Undertaker quickly finds out that The Undertaker won't take the bait. He's a plodder who always plods. If you want to run with The Undertaker, go ahead and run. Jump around the ring. Hop and skip. The Undertaker won't be drawn into your style. He'll just stand there and watch ... and wait.

UNDERTAKER

HOW TO BEAT HIM

1. DON'T FEAR HIM. Let's face facts: A man can't go back and forth between the afterworld and the real world at will. The Undertaker isn't a mystical creature. Get that out of your head and you've gone a long way toward reducing The Undertaker to a normal human being and winning the psychological battle. It's not always easy.

2. IF YOU HAVE HIM DOWN, KEEP HIM DOWN. One of the biggest mistakes made by wrestlers who have The Undertaker prone on the mat is that they turn their backs and act as if the match is over. Well, it isn't. If you have The Undertaker down, keep him down. Finish him off immediately. Don't give him the slightest chance to pop up.

3. TELL HIM YOU'RE HIS LONG-LOST COUSIN. If there's one thing The Undertaker can't stand, it's this family stuff that's been brought out (and played out on TV) over the past year. First it was his half-brother, Kane. Then Paul Bearer started suggesting he was The Undertaker's father. Obviously, family matters get under his skin. So keep the family affair going. Let's have a reunion!

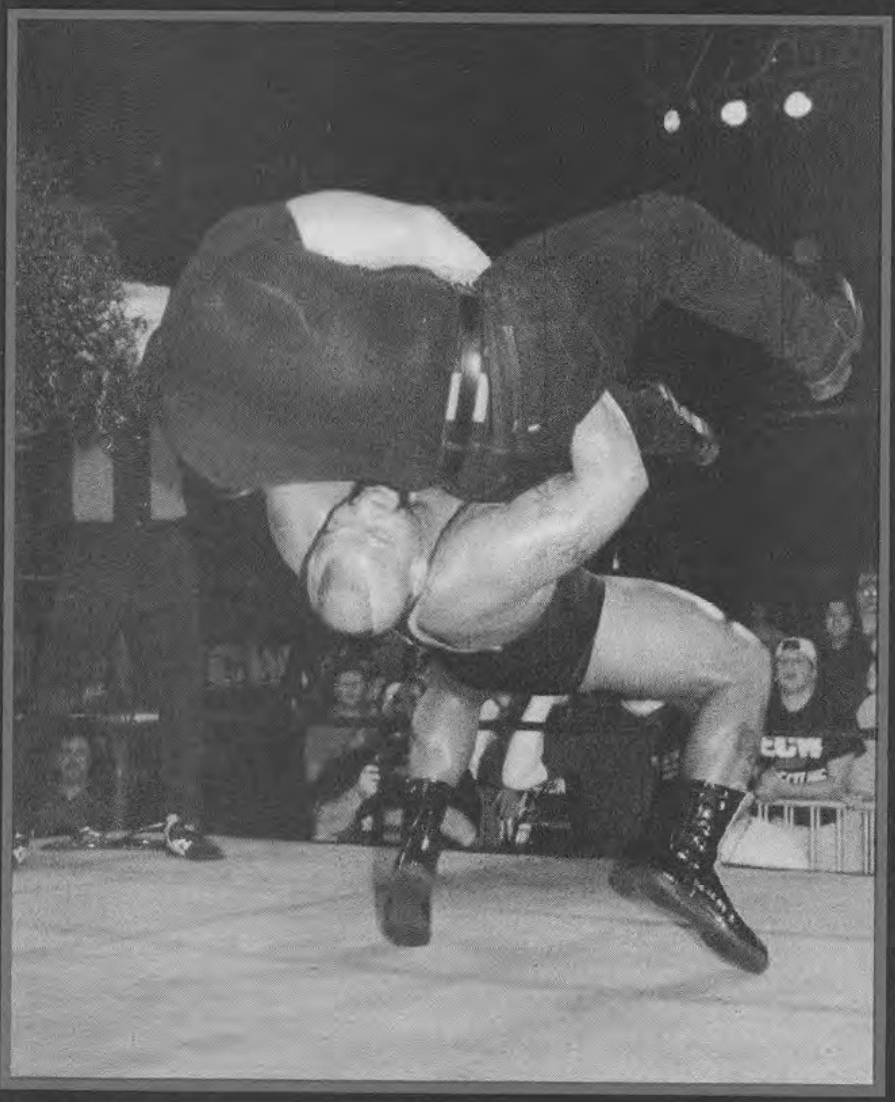
4. DON'T WASTE YOUR ENERGY. Like we said, The Undertaker is a plodder. If you're going to attack him early, make it a standing attack. Go after him with clotheslines and dropkicks from the ropes. Don't waste your energy trying to get him to chase you around the ring. Attack his legs. Attack his upper body.

5. AVOID THE CHOKE-SLAM. Most of his opponents never get up from the "tombstone" piledriver. Similarly, almost nobody gets up from the choke-slam. Not Mankind. Not "Triple-H." Not Vince McMahon. Not even Kane. Kick, scream, bite, pull hair. But whatever you do, don't let him get your throat.

Kane sets The Undertaker up for his own "tombstone" piledriver. Kane, The Undertaker's half-brother, is the only wrestler in the WWF who can match his ability *and* mystique.

TAZ

WHY TO FEAR HIM



Taz—"The Human Suplex machine"—uses one on Pit Bull I. Although many people consider Taz too small to endure the ring wars of ECW, he is built perfectly for the wrestling style he employs.

1. SUPLEX-MANIA. Sometimes it seems like he has 1,000 different versions. Taz's library of suplexes is so huge that he tries not to use the same suplex two matches in a row. And he's constantly coming up with new ones! No wrestler is more dangerous than the one who's constantly learning and changing. "You never now which one is coming next," he said. "I'm always adding something."

2. HE'S OUT OF CONTROL. Sure, you can say that about most of ECW's cast of characters, but it's doubly true with Taz. He simply doesn't care about anyone or anything. How about the time Taz wrestled Bam Bam Bigelow and knocked out three referees? "He's a crazy man," said ECW broadcaster Joey Styles.

3. WINNING IS EVERYTHING. A lot of ECW wrestlers—a lot of wrestlers in all promotions, actually—like to give the fans something to remember them by in every match, even if doing so lessens their chance of winning. Taz isn't concerned about showing people new "extreme" moves or taking risks every time out. Winning is enough. He'll do anything to win, and he prefers to do it quickly and efficiently.

4. HE'S OUT TO PROVE HIMSELF. Taz was really angry when he was ECW TV champion and never got a shot at heavyweight champion Shane Douglas. Now that Douglas has been sidelined with injuries, Taz knows his shot at the big belt is a long way off. He feels as if he has been wronged, as if the whole world is against him. Nothing is more dangerous than a scorned wrestler.

5. HE'S BUILT FOR SPEED. At 5'9"—small for a wrestler—Taz easily gets around the ring. He moves quickly, ducks out of the way of his opponents, and rapidly gets into position for his next maneuver. "A lot of people have told me that I'm too small," Taz said. "Well, this isn't about size, it's about the man, and if you ask me, I wouldn't want to be a inch taller or a pound heavier. This is perfect."

HOW TO BEAT HIM

1. USE HIS SIZE AGAINST HIM. Sure, Taz uses his size to his own advantage, but it can be a disadvantage when he's wrestling larger, agile wrestlers. The best bet when wrestling Taz is to engage him in a power match. Make it so he can't use his speed. Get in tight. Taz is reckless and confident and thinks he can overpower anyone. But he's wrong.

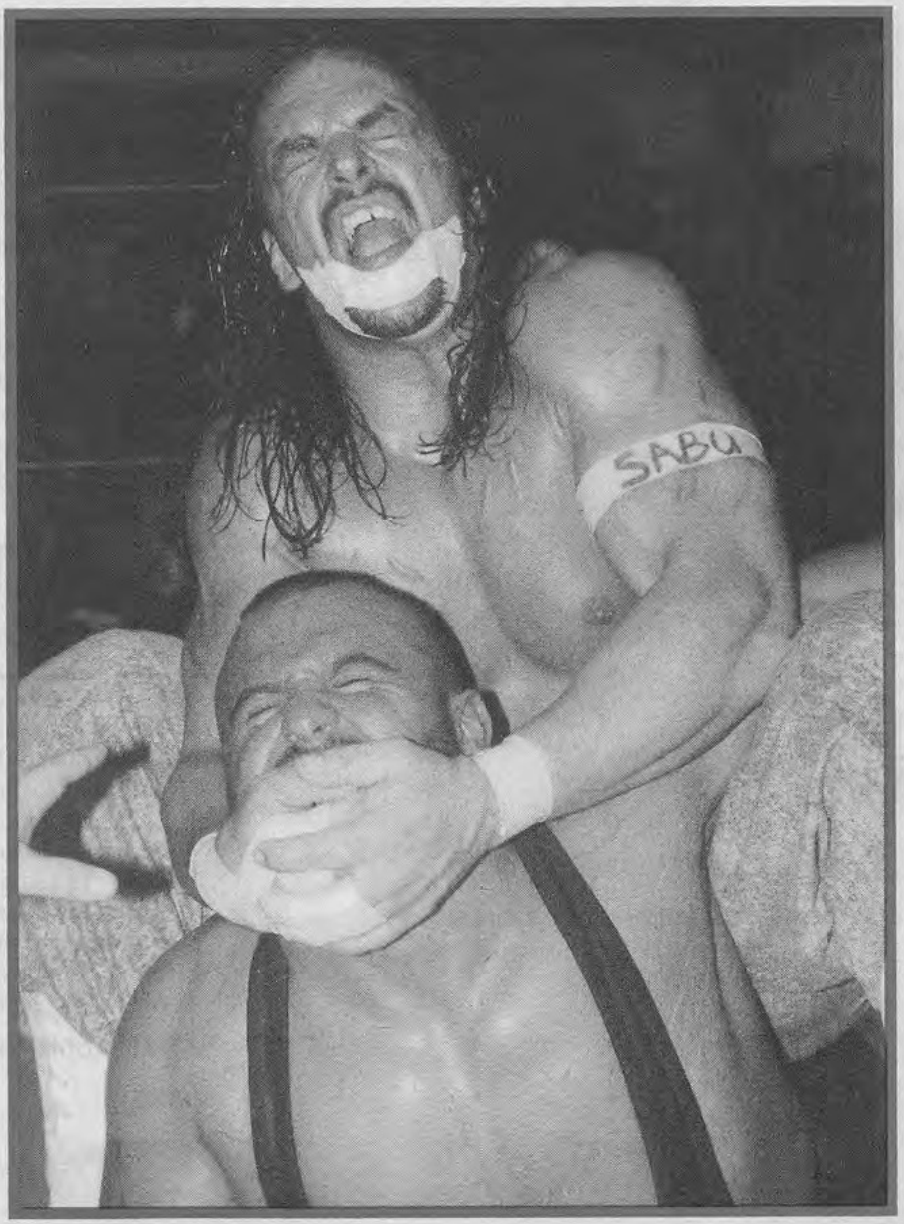
2. TAKE HIM OUTSIDE THE RING. Taz is at his best when a match *doesn't* get out too out of control. He doesn't mind going outside, using tables and chairs, and fighting into the crowd, but that's not when he's at his best, as Bam Bam Bigelow proved when he beat him for the ECW TV belt at Living Dangerously. Take him all over the building if possible. Just don't let him *outwrestle* you.

3. CAPITALIZE ON HIS LACK OF EXPERIENCE. ECW is the only major promotion in which Taz has wrestled. The best way to use this against him is to incorporate the styles of wrestlers Taz has never seen. He has been so effective in ECW because he knows every opponent like the back of his hand. Taz might not expect the unexpected.

4. AVOID THE TAZ-MISSION. Sure, it isn't easy. First of all, you have to be concerned because Taz has so many suplexes and can execute them from anywhere in the ring ... or outside the ring. Avoiding the "Taz-mission" is not easy when part of your strategy includes wrestling in tight. The trick is to watch tapes of Taz and be prepared for this submission hold at any time. Once he has it on you, you're almost certainly a beaten man.

5. CAPITALIZE ON HIS LACK OF FOCUS. Taz doesn't care? Well, you should. Taz wrestled out of control? Well, it's your job to be in as much control as possible. Be the voice of reason in a match against Taz. Don't lose your focus. When Taz goes nuts, don't get drawn into his insanity. Keep your wrestling at an even keel. Remain calm.

Taz grimaces from the pain caused by Sabu's camel clutch. Sabu, slightly taller and more agile than Taz, is the type of wrestler who can give the former ECW TV champ fits in the ring.



NOW AVAILABLE BY E-MAIL!

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY

WOW! SAVE UP TO 50%!

PACKED WITH INFORMATION!

All the information you want is right here—each and every week! All the latest news and gossip! Comprehensive results from around the world! A calendar of upcoming events! Complete ratings! And feature stories that keep you on top of today's news *today*—with the authority and reliability only the *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* team of reporters can provide!

GET IT INSTANTANEOUSLY–VIA E-MAIL!

For those fans who can't get their news fast enough, *PWI Weekly* is now available via e-mail. No longer will you have to wait for your postal delivery. *PWI Weekly* is produced every Monday and sent to e-mail subscribers that very evening! You'll receive electronic text files only, but you'll get them fast—and at no extra cost!

STILL NOT SURE?

Want to try a sample issue of *PWI Weekly*? No problem! Just send us $1.95 and we'll send you a sample copy hot off the press! But be warned: Once you see all the news, results, and information packed into our newsletter, you'll be hooked! (Sorry, no credit cards accepted for single-issue orders.)

PUBLISHER'S WARNING: Subscribing To *PWI Weekly* Now Greatly Increases Your Wrestling Knowledge.

Send to:
London Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 2021, Dept. 9
Marion, OH 43302

☐ NEW ☐ RENEWAL

Please indicate method of payment:

☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)
☐ VISA
☐ MasterCard
Card number: _____
Expiration date: ____/____ MO/YR

Signature_____

YES! I want to be the first with all the news! Please send me a subscription to *PWI Weekly* as follows:

☐ 17 issues for just $19.99, a 40% savings
☐ 34 issues for just $34.99, a 45% savings
☐ 52 issues for just $49.99, a 50% savings
☐ I'd like to see a sample copy before I subscribe. Enclosed please find a check or money order for $1.95
☐ Please send my subscription electronically via e-mail only at no additional cost (specify e-mail address and postal address)

E-MAIL ADDRESS_____
NAME_____
ADDRESS_____ **APT**_____
CITY_____ **STATE**_____ **ZIP**_____

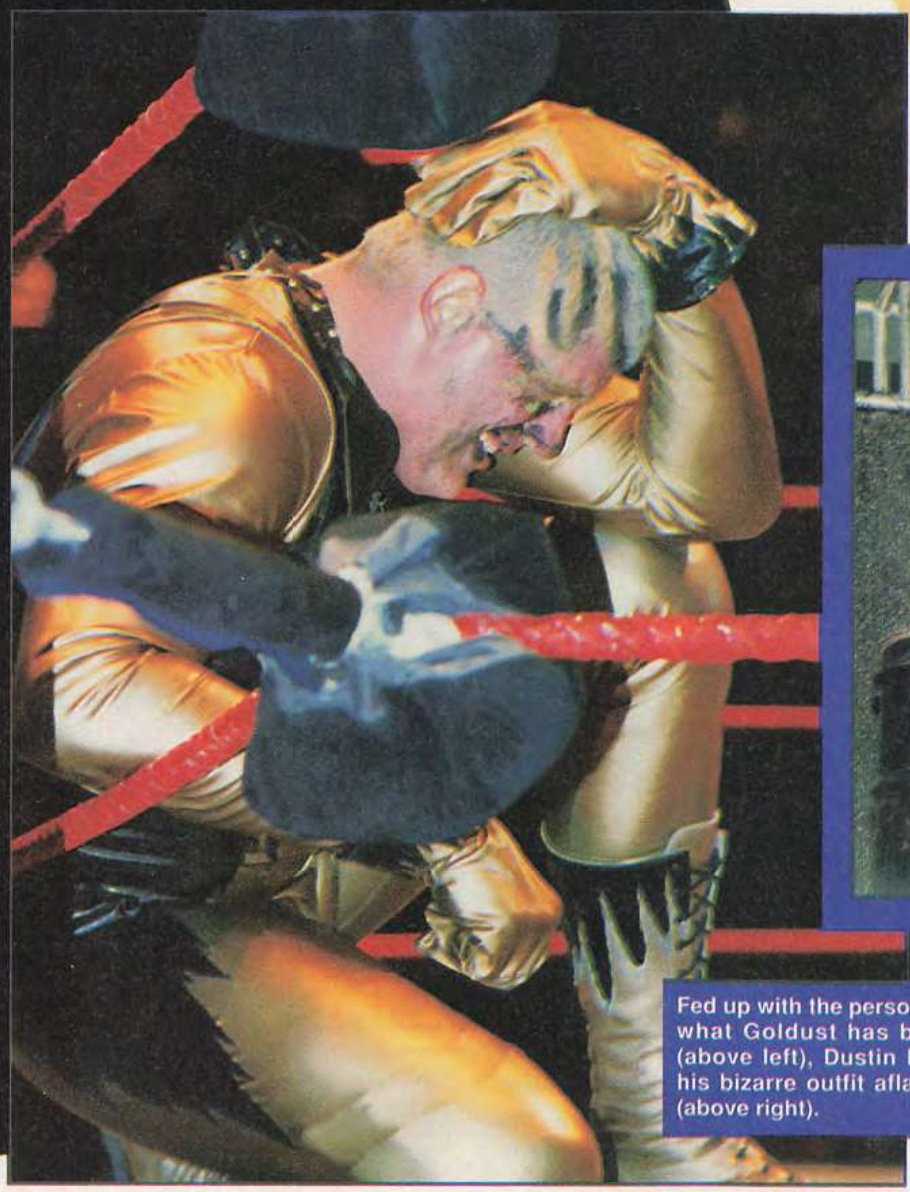
Offer good in U.S. and Canada only. Foreign airmail orders: $2.65 for single issue; $32.74 for 17 issues; $60.49 for 34 issues; $88.99 for 52 issues. International money orders in U.S. funds only. Please allow eight weeks for subscription to start.

4658/12-97/2c

RINGTHEBELL on Archive.org

DUSTIN BURNS HIS BRITCHES

Will He Be Fired To Set An Example For Austin?



Fed up with the personal agony of what Goldust has been to him (above left), Dustin Runnels set his bizarre outfit aflame on *Raw* (above right).

Dustin Runnels told WWF owner Vince McMahon to take his Goldust persona and stuff it. Now, the controversial wrestler could be in hot water—with Steve Austin!

By Bryan Ethier

BY THE TIME Dustin Runnels had come to grips with reality—and his true self—he had betrayed his wife and daughter, lost his dignity, donned women's clothing, approached fellow wrestlers in a lewd manner, and all but ruined one of wrestling's proudest names.

On May 11, 1998, Runnels cast his eyes to the heavens and finally saw his reflection in the stars. He did not like what he saw. "You caused me to lose my father, 'The American Dream,' and most of all, you've caused me heartache with me losing my wife, Terri, and daughter, Dakota," Runnels

At the Slammys several years ago, Goldust and Marlena made a definite impression, but it's the kind of that Dustin doesn't want to deal with anymore.

screamed at WWF owner Vince McMahon.

Runnels then gathered his Goldust attire, tossed it in a steel ashcan, and set in on fire like the lice-ridden uniform of a captured soldier.

"Goldust dies tonight," he announced.

With that, Runnels stepped away from the flames and the persona that had created such a stir in the WWF for three years.

But was it the right step?

"Goldust made Dustin Runnels," observed WWF commentator Jim Ross. "Maybe it ruined Dustin Runnels the man, but without the face paint, the wig, the bizarre persona, Dustin Runnels might still be walking in his father's shadow."

A good point. Their disassociation did cause Runnels severe distress.

But that is one side of the equation. To be considered as well is the fame Goldust brought to Runnels. Over the last two years, few wrestlers have elicited such impassioned responses from the fans, even though much of the feedback has come in the form of slurs and epithets.

Beleaguered, Runnels went to work recreating his life. But what sort of life does he have left? The reputation as a loose cannon devoid of morals? Little chance of ever becoming the federation's ambassador. Little chance of repairing a shattered family. Hardly a friend in the world.

Welcome to Runnels' personal hell, in which he may have suffered his greatest damage by standing up to McMahon and burning his past persona. Seeing Dustin devoid of the weird getup, fans may wonder, *Just who **is** this guy?*

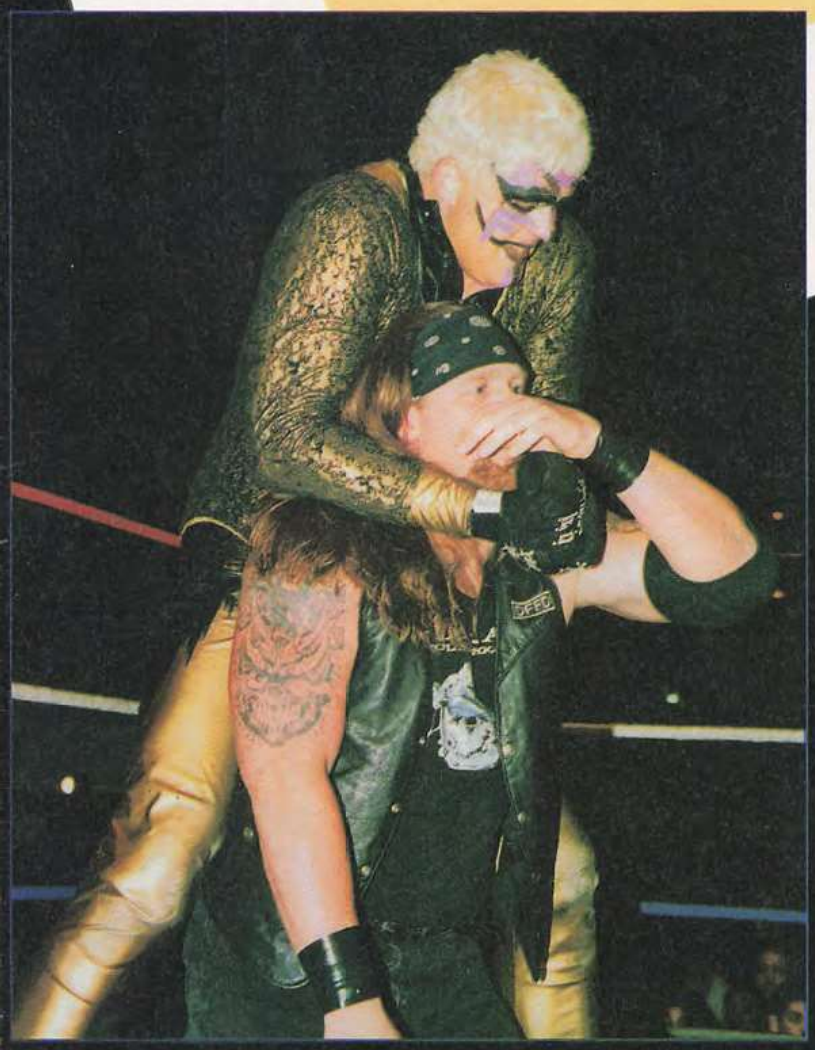
In exclusive interviews held on *Raw*, Dustin Runnels has been

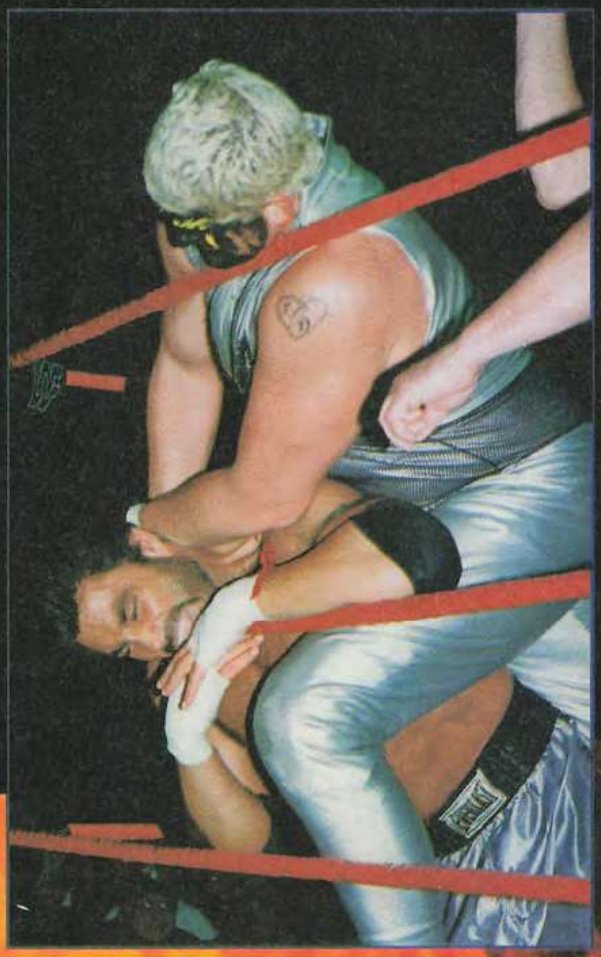
anything but engaging. In fact, his sad-sack tales are merely the pathos that turns wrestling fans away from their TV screens. Yes, Terri (a.k.a. Marlena) is sweet, and Dakota is cute. But as charming a family as the Runnels may be, they are not very interesting. If McMahon has determined one thing over his many years as WWF head honcho, it's that fans want to identify with performers whose lives are in 180-degree opposition to theirs. Why tune in to watch Mom, Dad, and child walk down the beach hand-in-hand?

"Beware the hand that feeds you," remarked a WWF insider. "Vince does not appreciate those who break his personal laws. He is not a forgiving man. And right now, McMahon is looking for a scapegoat in light of the Austin situation."

For months, Steve Austin and McMahon have been at odds over the wrestler's erratic behavior. Yet despite Austin's clear disrespect of his boss, he remains a fixture in the WWF. McMahon has had Austin arrested, he has tried to cheat him out of the WWF title, and he has assaulted him physically. Still, Austin has refused to obey his boss. Why? Austin knows that as the federation's top draw, he is untouchable. McMahon admitted as much on TV.

(Continued on page 76)

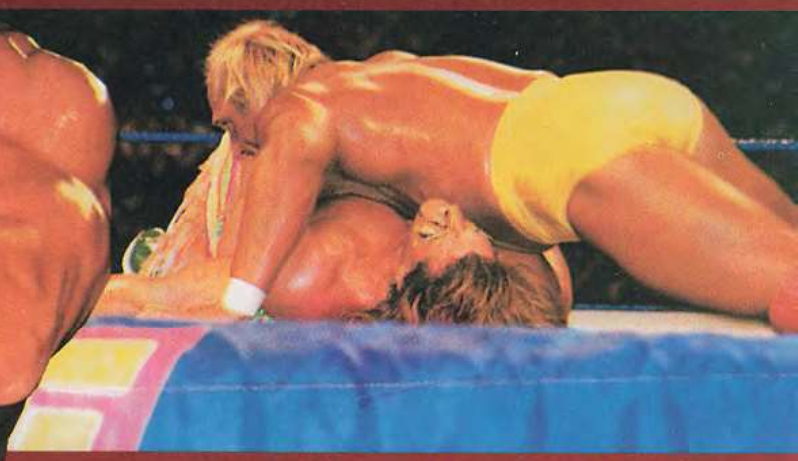




Though he's wrestled Chainz (above) and Marc Mero (right) plenty of times, the former Goldust may soon be facing off against Steve Austin!

HOGAN VS.

The Ultimate Rematch ... Eight Years Later!



Hollywood Hogan (left) says that if he wrestles Warrior again, he will get the pinfall that he came so close to more than eight years ago (above). We'll see ... maybe.

Eight years is a long time—an eternity for fans who have longed for a rematch between Hulk Hogan and Ultimate Warrior. With Warrior about to join WCW, their paths are again crossing. Will we finally see the inevitable and ultimate clash?

WARRIOR

By Steve Anderson

HOLLYWOOD HOGAN talks too much. That's hardly a secret. With even the slightest of prompting, he will ramble on ceaselessly about anything and everything even remotely related to him and his career. He will list countless accolades that he has received. He will provide a detailed list of superstars he defeated in defense of his WWF or WCW titles.

But there is one subject that will cause Hogan to be uncharacteristically silent ... at least for a few seconds.

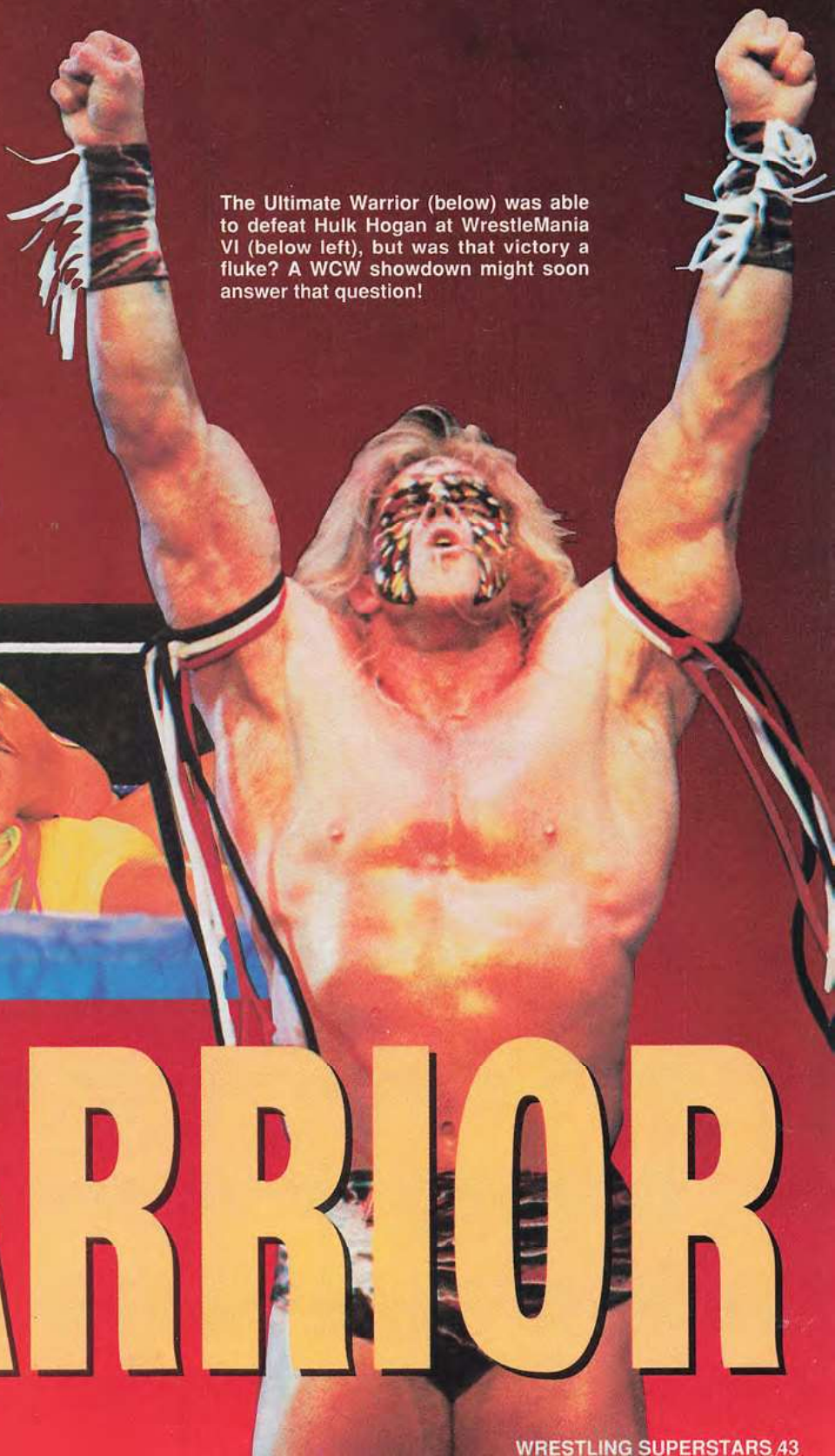
The Ultimate Warrior.

Hogan has had his share of losses, but 99 percent of them were due to outside interference or some other controversy. Very few men have ever pinned him cleanly, and most of those felt Hogan's retribution later as they were defeated by him in rematches.

Except for one man. One man he wrestled once. One man who cleanly defeated him at WrestleMania VI on April 1, 1990. One man who caused Hogan to be viewed as less than immortal.

The Ultimate Warrior.

The mention of Warrior's name makes Hogan bristle. He never received the opportunity to face the Warrior after WrestleMania VI. Not once. Through circumstances beyond his (and perhaps the WWF's) control, a rematch between the two never took place. Their paths crossed again a year



The Ultimate Warrior (below) was able to defeat Hulk Hogan at WrestleMania VI (below left), but was that victory a fluke? A WCW showdown might soon answer that question!

after the bout, but shaky relations with the WWF on both men's parts prevented another encounter.

"Don't let anybody kid you, brother," said Hogan. "The Warrior feared me then, and he fears me now. How he dredged up the guts to even think about coming here is beyond me. Whether he's with me or against me, we still have a score to settle."

The Ultimate Warrior only won a single WWF World title. True, he beat Hogan cleanly for it. But the questions and speculations from fans haunted him: Was it a fluke? Could he do it again? Perhaps Hogan was off that night in Toronto and the Warrior just got lucky.

Perhaps more than Hogan, the Warrior wanted a rematch. He wanted to prove that he was the true "immortal." Numerous contractual spats with the WWF and Hogan's departure in 1995 kept his dream of meeting Hogan again just that ... a dream.

Maybe to try to satisfy the public's thirst for a rematch, Hogan even concocted his own Warrior clone known as The Renegade. The face-painted grappler ran frantically to the ring, shook the ropes, and showed off his massive body. Sound familiar?

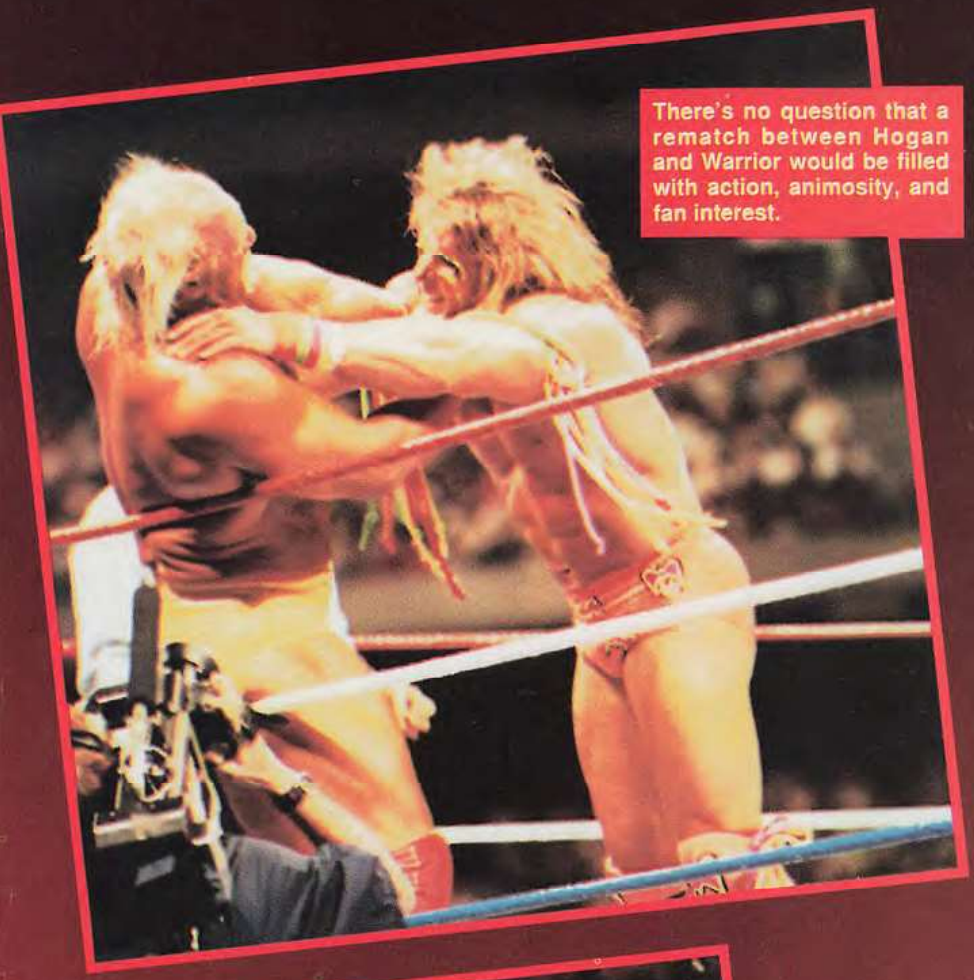
Warrior was one of the few men able to withstand Hogan's legdrop and rally to a clean victory.

But it was hardly a reasonable facsimile; in fact, it infuriated the Warrior even more that Hogan would attempt such a sham.

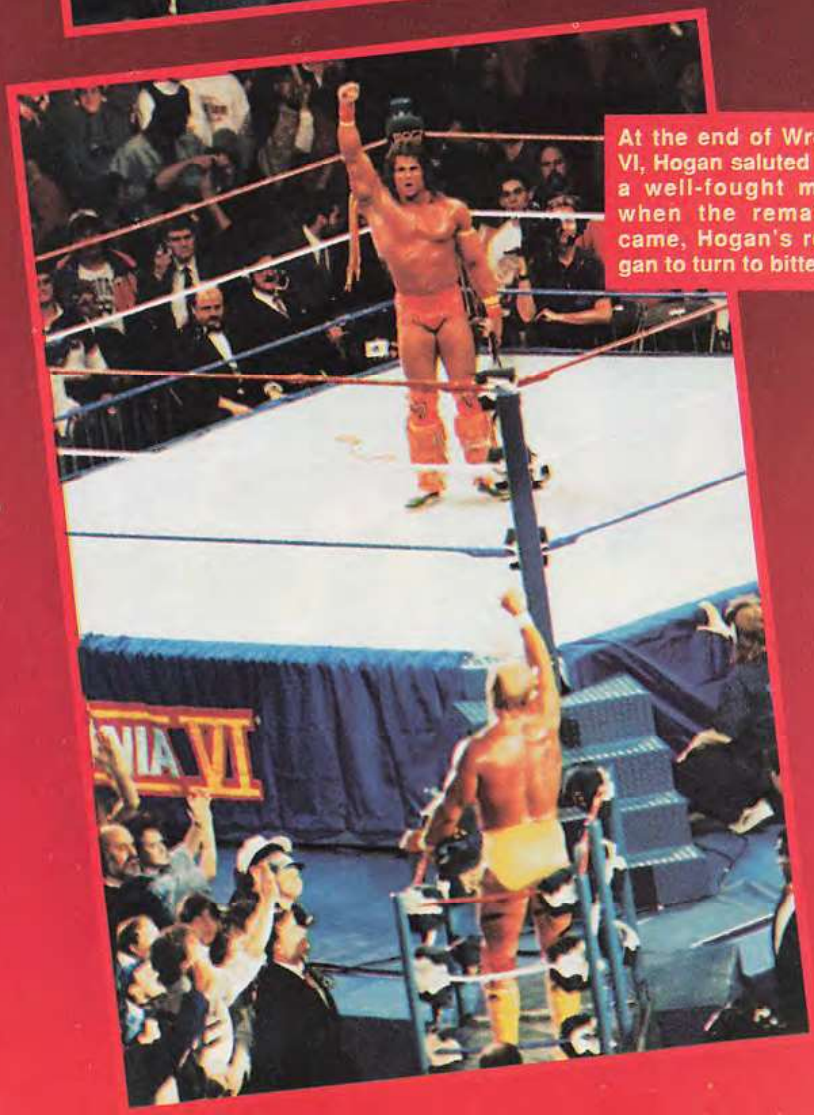
At press time, speculation was that the Warrior would make his first WCW appearance by fall. Finally, the two can cross paths again. The personalities and the circumstances are a bit different now. Hogan is now Hollywood, a vile rulebreaker ruling the black and white faction of the New World Order. The Warrior has become better known for his antics outside the squared circle—a comic book, a fitness center—than for his ring accomplishments.

They are older, but they remain the talk of professional wrestling: Hogan by continuing to rule the wrestling world while breaking every rule put in front of him, and the Warrior for periodically disappearing without a trace. WCW is salivating at the notion of featuring the long-awaited rematch. It recognizes both men's desire ... but also sees all of this potentially blowing up in its face.

Given the Warrior's penchant



There's no question that a rematch between Hogan and Warrior would be filled with action, animosity, and fan interest.



At the end of WrestleMania VI, Hogan saluted Warrior for a well-fought match. But when the rematch never came, Hogan's respect began to turn to bitterness.

for becoming quickly invisible, the heralded rematch could easily find itself without one of the participants. Still, the prospect of the two men being in the same arena for the first time in several years might just give WCW's TV ratings a nice little boost.

After all, the WWF had a great deal of momentum going into the summer; WCW needs to shift that momentum back in its favor. Enter the Warrior. They have negotiated in the past, but the two parties felt that they did not need each other. WCW was doing just fine with Hogan, Hall, Nash, and Sting, and the Warrior was content with being a living, yet estranged legend.

Now they need each other.

And, of course, there is the unsettled business. Neither man is content with the history left behind at the Skydome more than eight years ago. Warrior showed his ability to win the big one, and Hogan showed humility in losing it to him. But in the seconds, days, and weeks after that bout, there was the air of "We'll meet again." Hogan was seeking retribution. Warrior was seeking validation.

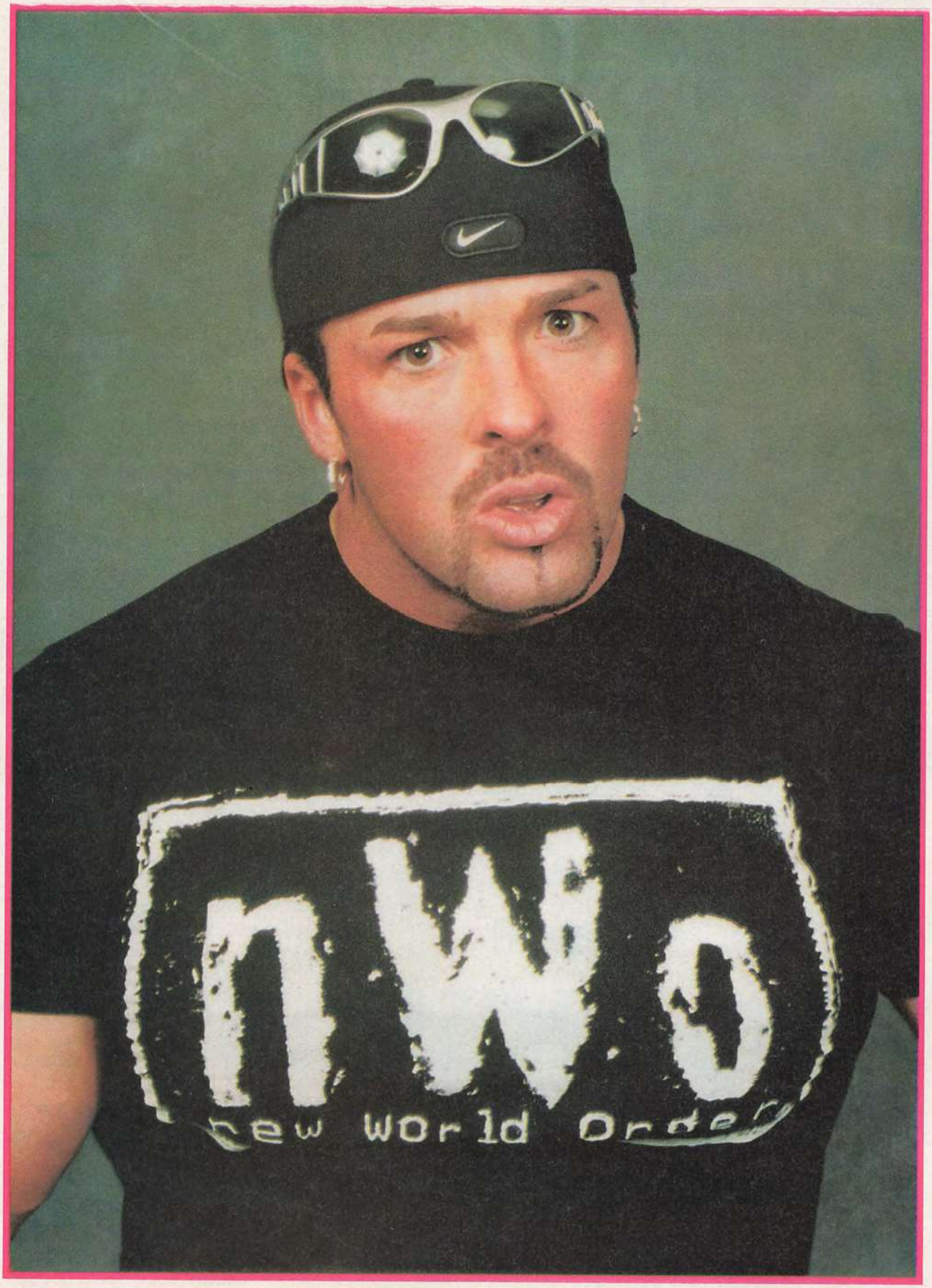
"We'll meet again" has become a festering question mark on the careers of both men. Hogan has been able to exact a certain amount of revenge on any opponent who defeated him, but the Warrior poses a larger challenge.

"I'm meaner and better than I ever have been in the past," Hogan said. "Plus, I have my NWO to watch my back. The Warrior can't cheat this time around."

As usual, the Warrior has been silent, choosing to wait until his WCW debut. But then what? Will he reform The Blade Runners with Sting and go after Hogan's NWO? Will he join Hogan's side as he has in the past? Will he join Nash? Looming questions.

One question looms largest: Can the Warrior do it again?

WCW hopes that you stay tuned to find out. □


nWo
New World Order

SUPERSTAR INTERVIEW

MARCUS BAGWELL

"SOMEBODY'S GOING TO die in the ring." That's what former AWA World champion Nick Bockwinkel told WRESTLING SUPERSTARS *Associate Editor Frank Krewda while discussing the state of our sport in a recent telephone interview. "It's just a matter of time."*

Given that more and more wrestlers with a passion to defy death (or at least serious injury) are using more and more daredevil maneuvers all the time, Bockwinkel's words might be more prophetic than preposterous.

But the maneuver that paralyzed Marcus "Buff" Bagwell on April 22 wasn't a 450 splash from the top rope—it was a simple flying bulldog headlock. The same flying bulldog that Rick Steiner used on Bagwell countless times before. Only this time, something happened on the way down that caused Steiner to lose his grip on Bagwell's head, which was essentially stubbed into Rick's back. Routine maneuver—not-so-routine result.

Bagwell's injury, which aired live on a Wednesday edition of ***Thunder,*** *should give wrestling fans a new perspective on the sport. Not only does his injury highlight the very genuine risks these athletes assume all the time—even when performing the most basic maneuvers—it also reminds us that underneath the veneer of NWO conceit, Marcus "Buff" Bagwell—like all wrestlers—is still flesh and blood, just like everyone else.*

More importantly, the devastating injury reminded Bagwell, 28, of his own mortality.

In May, the Georgia native spoke with Krewda about the injury, his outlook on life, and his road to recovery. You might be surprised, as Krewda was, to see a side of Bagwell previously uncaptured by the wrestling media.

***

WRESTLING SUPERSTARS: Thanks for taking time to talk to us, Marcus. How is the injury coming along? How do you feel?

MARCUS BAGWELL: You are welcome. I'm feeling much better. I'm still wearing a collar, but I feel a lot better.

WS: Now I know this isn't the most pleasant memory to recall, but if you could, Marcus, try to walk us through the injury step-by-step.

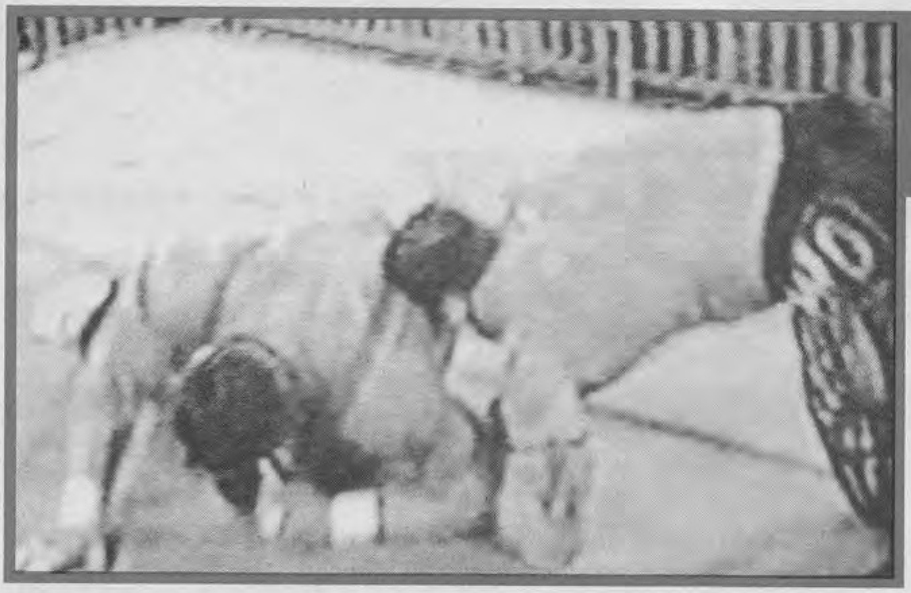
MB: Sure. Rick Steiner went for the bulldog, and my head slipped out and sort of jammed into his back or his side. At first, I was disoriented for like a one two-thousand count. I mean, this all really happened so quick. But I was only disoriented for a second. Then all of a sudden, I was totally coherent and fully aware that I was paralyzed. I couldn't uncross my legs.

WS: Do you remember what your initial reaction was?

MB: My first reaction was, *Oh my God, I'm paralyzed.* But after a few minutes, I just said to myself, "Well, it happened, and there's nothing I can do about it." I couldn't move anything from my neck down for about three or four minutes. But I'm a born-again Christian, so I never asked, "Why me?" I never cried. I mean, for the first one or two minutes, I thought, *I'm not ready for this yet. I'm too young. I have too much to offer.* I sort of had an argument with God. But in the third and fourth minutes, I just accepted the fact that I was paralyzed, and that's when I started to recover feeling in my extremities: first in my left hand, then in my left leg, followed by my right hand and right leg. And I was actually thinking positive thoughts, believe it or not, about setting up talks and teaching and things like that.

WS: Aside from the fact that you regained feeling, what enabled you to think positive thoughts at that point?

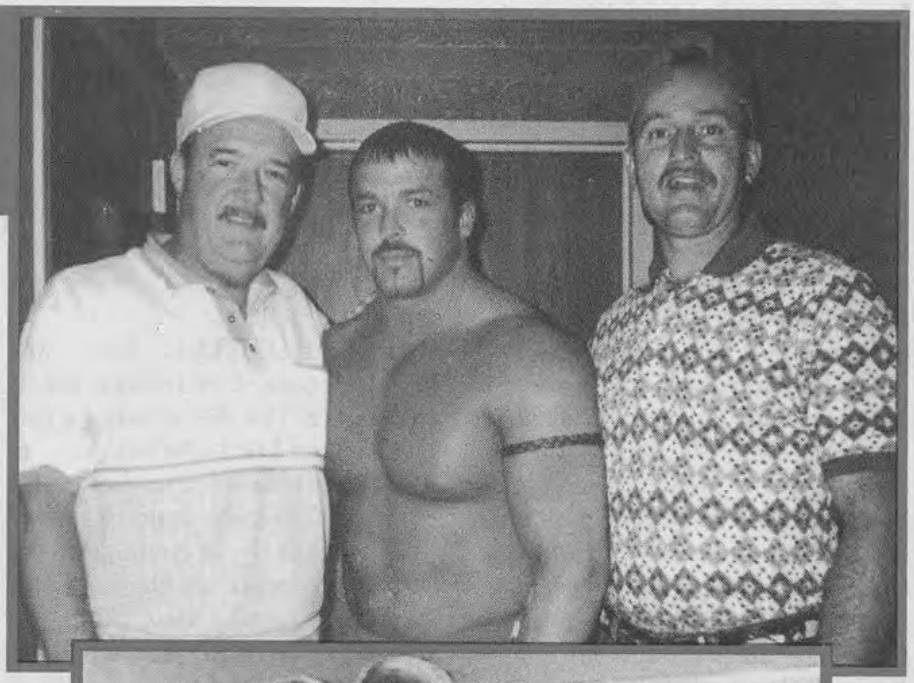
MB: I guess the first thing you need to understand about me is that I'm very self-motivated, and my determination is phenomenal. But more than that, I had just visited a 17-year-old boy named Joey Robinson, who was paralyzed from the neck



A still picture taken from TV shows just what happened to Marcus Bagwell on April 22. Serious damage was done to his neck, but he is planning to return to the ring.

Luger, and Dallas Page put all that NWO/WCW business aside to see if I was all right. I knew the entire locker room would be with me, and I told them to finish the show. Do what they had to do for *Thunder,* then catch up with me later at the hospital. At one point, Eric [Bischoff] got in my ear and

Bagwell's father, Steve, and family friend Rick Moody helped Marcus keep his spirits up during his hospital stay (right). Marcus was also visited by Bryan Lankford, who broke his neck in an automobile accident two years ago, and two of Lankford's friends (below right).



down two weeks prior to my injury. When I got hurt, I remembered Joey. Actually, when I got hurt, my whole life passed before my eyes just like they say it does. But I was up and walking around within 45 minutes.

WS: Of course, your injury was aired live on *Thunder* in the middle of a match that featured you and Scott Norton vs. Rick Steiner and Lex Luger. What was the reaction of the other wrestlers when this happened?

MB: If you look on the videotape, you'll see I was calling out to Scotty Steiner. I think Rick tried to roll me over, but I was just 240 pounds of dead weight. Then Scotty tried to put my arm on Rick for the pin, but it just flopped over. Somebody asked me if I was okay, and I said, "No, I'm paralyzed."

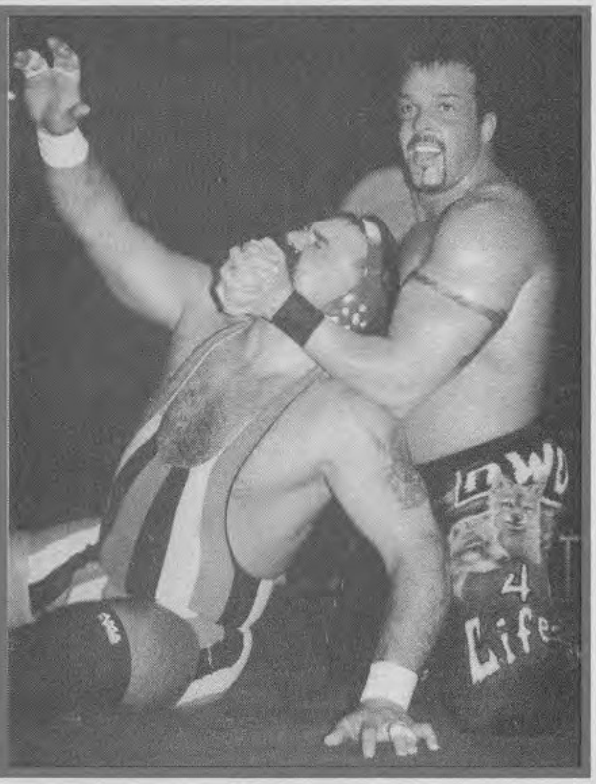
WS: What was the reaction backstage?

MB: It was really amazing. As soon as I got behind the curtain, guys like Sting, Lex

said, "You're going to be fine. You know that, don't you?" I said, "How do you know?" He said, "Because I always get what I pray for." But the fan reaction has been even more incredible. I received over 3,000 letters during my first four days in the hospital.

WS: Let's talk about the injury. Can you explain what caused you to become paralyzed?

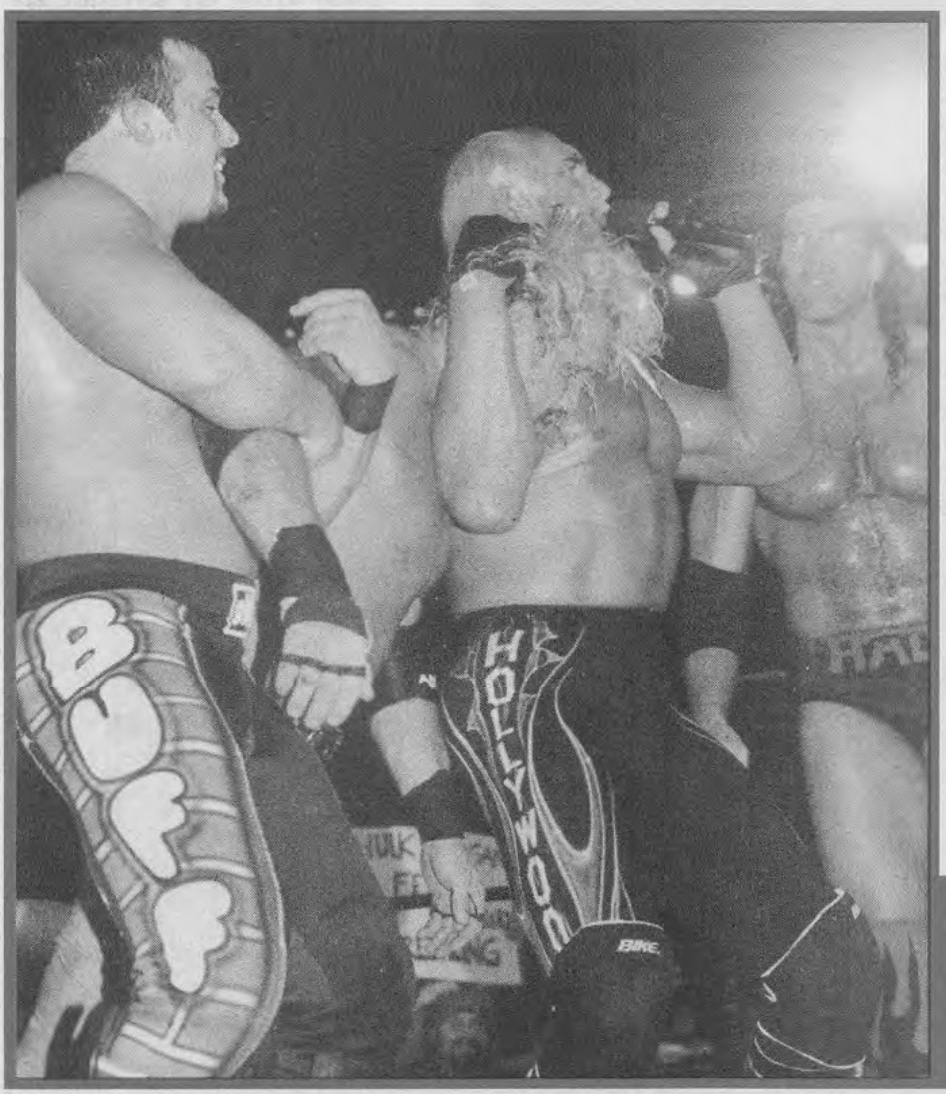
MB: Basically, a fragment of the disk between my C3 and C4 vertebrae was penetrating onto my spine. They removed the fragment, then grafted a piece of my hip bone to serve as a washer in between the vertebrae. That surgery was a success, but I developed complications later on in the hospital as a result of the surgery.



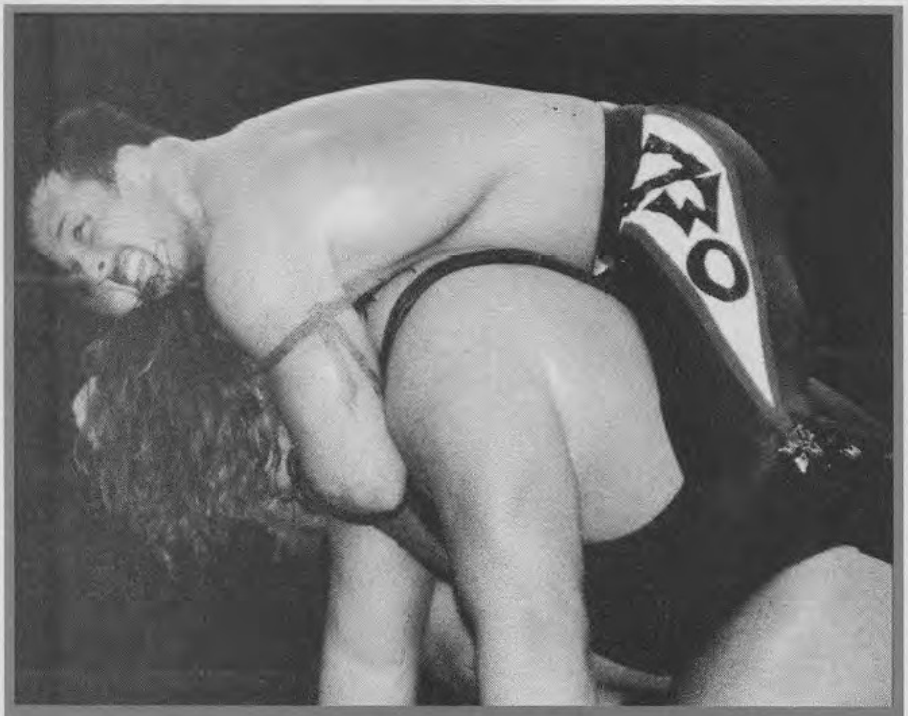
There is no love lost between Rick Steiner and the NWO, but even Rick was very concerned about what happened to Bagwell on April 22.

WS: What kind of complications?

MB: Well, at about three in the morning, I had difficulty breathing, but the nurses told me I was just a little anxious. A while later, I couldn't even talk, and I felt like was going to die in five minutes. So I was rushed in for emergency surgery to remove a blood clot that had put pressure on my windpipe. After they removed that clot, I felt 100 percent better. So they sent me home that Thursday. On Friday, my girlfriend and I developed food poisoning and spent the whole day vomiting. On Saturday, I still felt sick, and I was having trouble breathing again. I



A few months ago, Bagwell looked on as Hollywood Hogan used a "Diamond cutter" on Dallas Page. Will he join NWO Hollywood or NWO Wolfpac when he does return? Right now, he has more important things on his mind.



It took a lot of courage for Bagwell to challenge a man as big and powerful as The Giant. Getting through the days immediately following the accident took even more.

had to go in for *more* surgery to remove another blood clot. I had no more problems for the rest of the week, but the swelling in my neck wouldn't go down. I had a baseball-sized lump on my neck. One doctor wanted to do surgery, but I was not letting them cut me a fourth time. Plus, I was getting pretty depressed at this point. Luckily, a different doctor said I should let the blood drain on its own. When I went to his office, 100 cc's—or three-quarters of a glass—drained out.

WS: Considering what you've been through, you seem like you're in great spirits, Marcus. Has rehab started yet? What's the timetable for your return?

MB: Right now, I working on my legs in the gym, and I hope to be doing full workouts in about three months. As far as getting into the ring, we're looking at nine months, but I hope to be on *Nitro* and *Thunder* as soon as I can, doing interviews and stuff. WCW has been great through all this, and Eric told me that even if I can't wrestle again, I'll always have a job there, because they like Buff Bagwell the person.

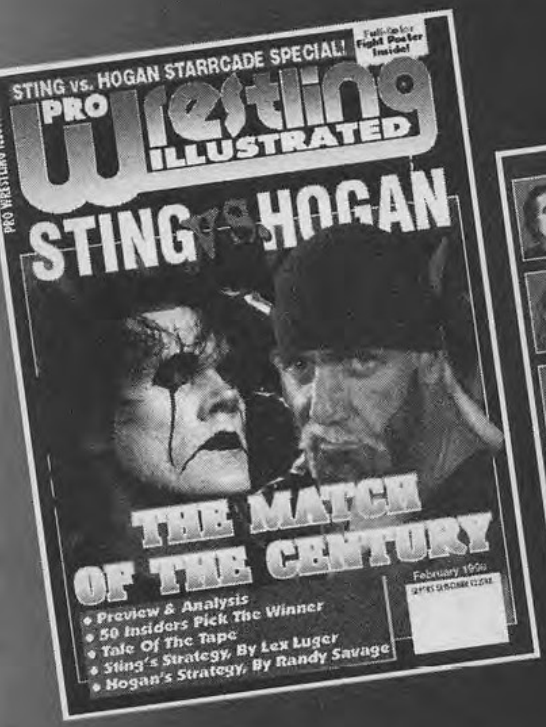
WS: Considering the freakish nature of your injury, do you anticipate any apprehension in your first few matches back?

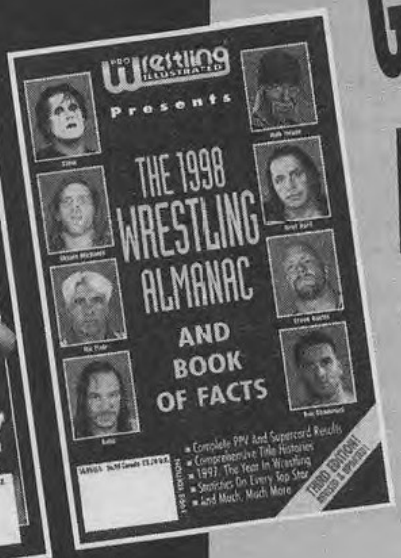
MB: No, I'm a real go-getter, and I want to get right back in the saddle again. I spoke to Dean Malenko and Ric Flair *(Both have overcome neck injuries)*, and they said things are a little tense at first, but I'll be fine.

WS: Marcus, in respect to your faith, have you been able to make any sense of this whole ordeal?

MB: Frank, I'm not sure why it happened. But it might be a warning that He can take it all away from me anytime He wants to. I live a good life, but maybe not quite right. I was lacking in a few things. But I see things in a much better light now. □

Before the accident, most people didn't know Bagwell (shown against Lex Luger) was a born-again Christian. His faith has greatly helped him during the last few months.





GET THE PWI ALMANAC FREE WITH YOUR PAID SUBSCRIPTION!

The *PWI Almanac And Book Of Facts* is an essential part of your wrestling library. Now in its third printing, revised and updated, the 196-page, digest-sized 1998 edition offers complete PPV, supercard, and Clash results ... Complete title histories ... A year-by-year history of the sport ... A comprehensive overview of 1997 ... Stats ... And much more!

The PWI Almanac has sold out on most newsstands each of its first two years, but now the third edition is yours **FREE** if you use the accompanying order form!

SUBSCRIBE TO *PWI* TODAY AND RECEIVE ...

- 13 issues a year (that's one every four weeks!)
- Up to 25% off the newsstand price
- Four special expanded issues, including the 100-page "Year-End Achievement Awards" and the "*PWI* 500"
- Speedy delivery right to your home
- And, of course, *The 1998 PWI Almanac And Book Of Facts*

EXCLUSIVE *PWI* FEATURES

PWI's award-winning staff is always where the action is, providing the most complete coverage of wrestling available anywhere. From the great staff of writers, through the dramatic peak-action photographs, to the magnificent full-color centerfold—**PWI** brings you wrestling action at its best. **PWI** includes exclusive features you can't get anywhere else: Our comprehensive "Arena Reports" ... Brandi Mankiewicz' lively and controversial "Off The Top Rope" . . . An incisive "Press Conference" with one of the sport's top stars . . . Extensive "Ratings" . . . Monthly columns by Stu Saks, Bill Apter, Dave Lenker, Dave Rosenbaum, and Andy Rodriguez. And don't forget: Your subscription to **PWI** includes the spectacular 100-page year-end issue, priced at $4.95 on the newsstand (if you can find it!) and every other special we produce throughout the year.

☑ Yes, I would like to subscribe to PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED

☐ I am enclosing $34.70 for a 13-issue subscription—a 20% savings off the newsstand price!

☐ I am enclosing $65.00 for a 26-issue subscription—a full 25% savings off the newsstand rate!

☐ I wish to receive the *1998 PWI Wrestling Almanac* as a bonus to my subscription and have enclosed $2 to cover postage and handling

☐ I would like to order the *1998 PWI Almanac* only and have enclosed $7 as payment in full

☐ VISA # _____

☐ MasterCard # _____
Expiration Date: ___/___
MO/YR

Signature: _____

Send to: London Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 2021, Dept. 9
Marion, OH 43302

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ APT _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

RING THE BELL on Archive.org

Price offer good in U.S. only. Canada and all foreign countries: $45.10 for 13 issues ($67.20 airmail); $85.80 for 26 issues ($130.00 airmail). International money order in U.S. funds only for orders outside U.S. Please allow up to eight weeks before you receive your first issue.

4672/01-98/2c

STEVIE RAY: "BOOKER T HAS

By Dan Murphy

IT WASN'T THE most comfortable assignment. Stand outside a small diner in the heart of Harlem in the heat of the night and wait for Stevie Ray to stop by ("be there at about 10 or so") and provide an exclusive interview on how he feels about Booker T's singles success. And there were no guarantees that Stevie Ray would even show up.

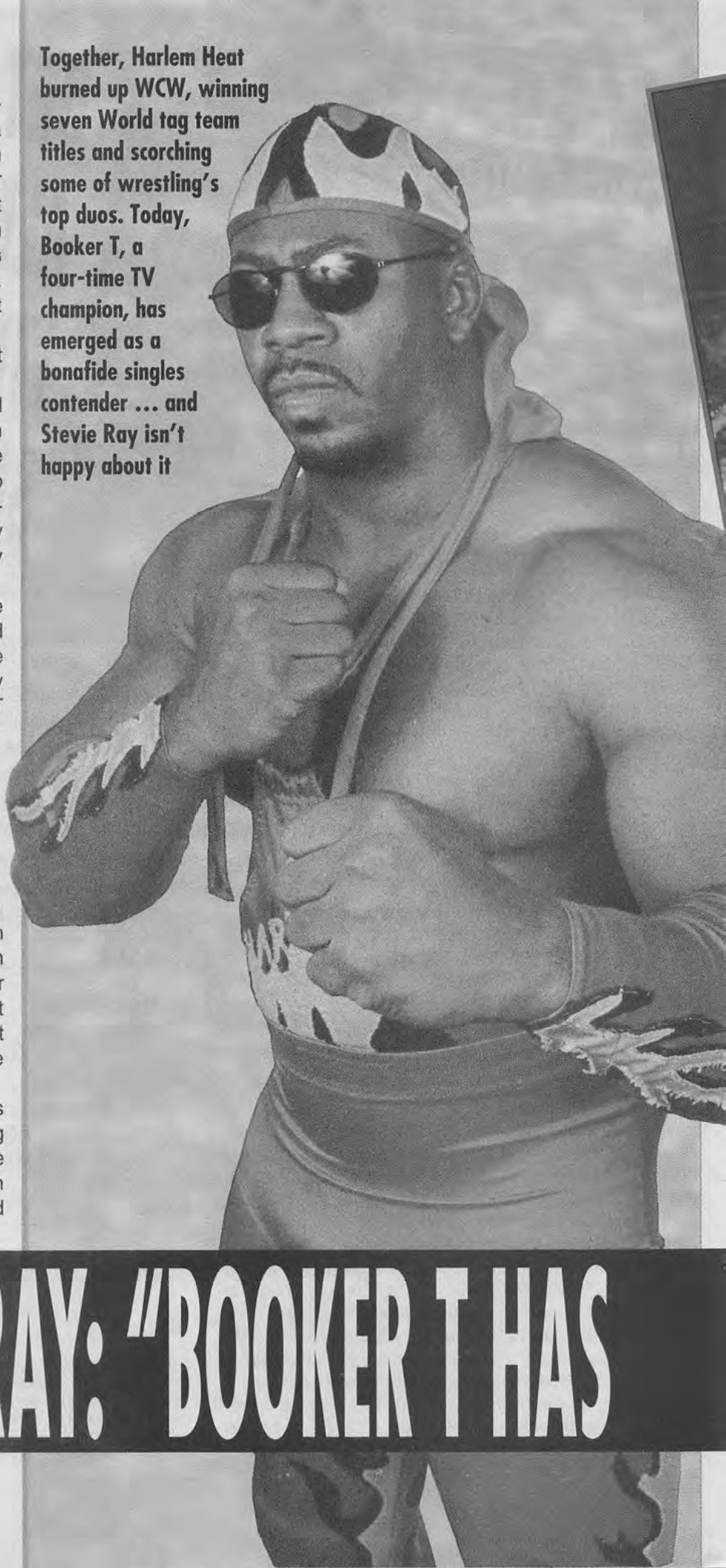
Fortunately he did, albeit at 11:32.

"I'm only doing this because Bill Apter literally begged me for an interview," Ray stated as the reporter anxiously scampered into his blood-red Explorer. "And remember, I only agreed to talk on my terms, in my spare time, and in my town.

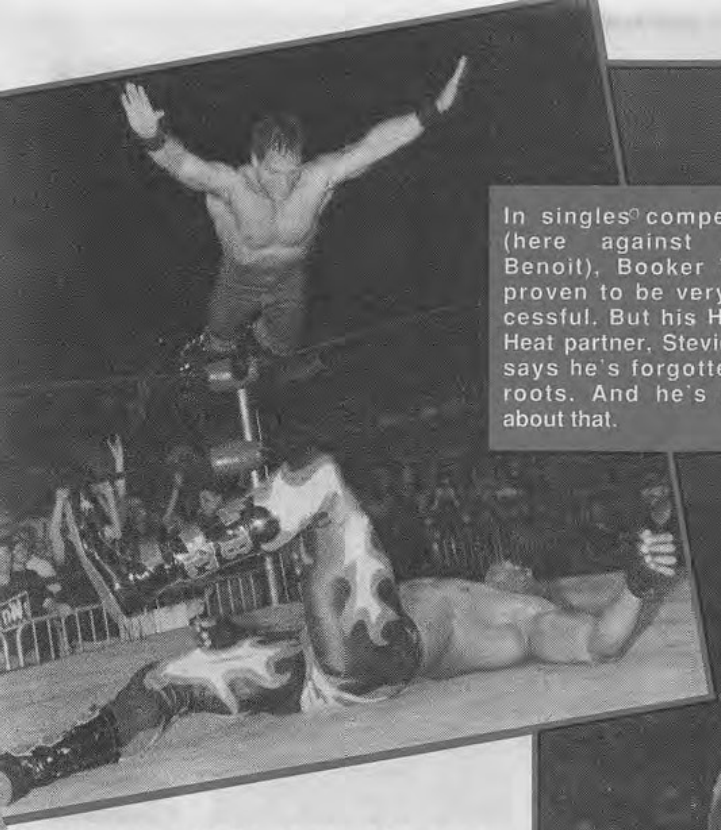
"You see," he continued, as the reporter quickly closed and locked the passenger side door, "unlike Booker T, I haven't forgotten my roots. I'm tellin' ya, man, Booker T has forgotten where he's from!"

After debuting in WCW in 1993, Harlem Heat went on to become one of the promotion's most consistent tag teams. With Stevie Ray's raw power and aggressiveness and Booker T's martial arts expertise and aerial skills, Harlem Heat commanded respect, even when they allied themselves with dubious managers such as Sister Sherri, Jacquelyn, and Col. Robert Parker (now Tennessee Lee). Not that they gave a damn what the fans thought of them.

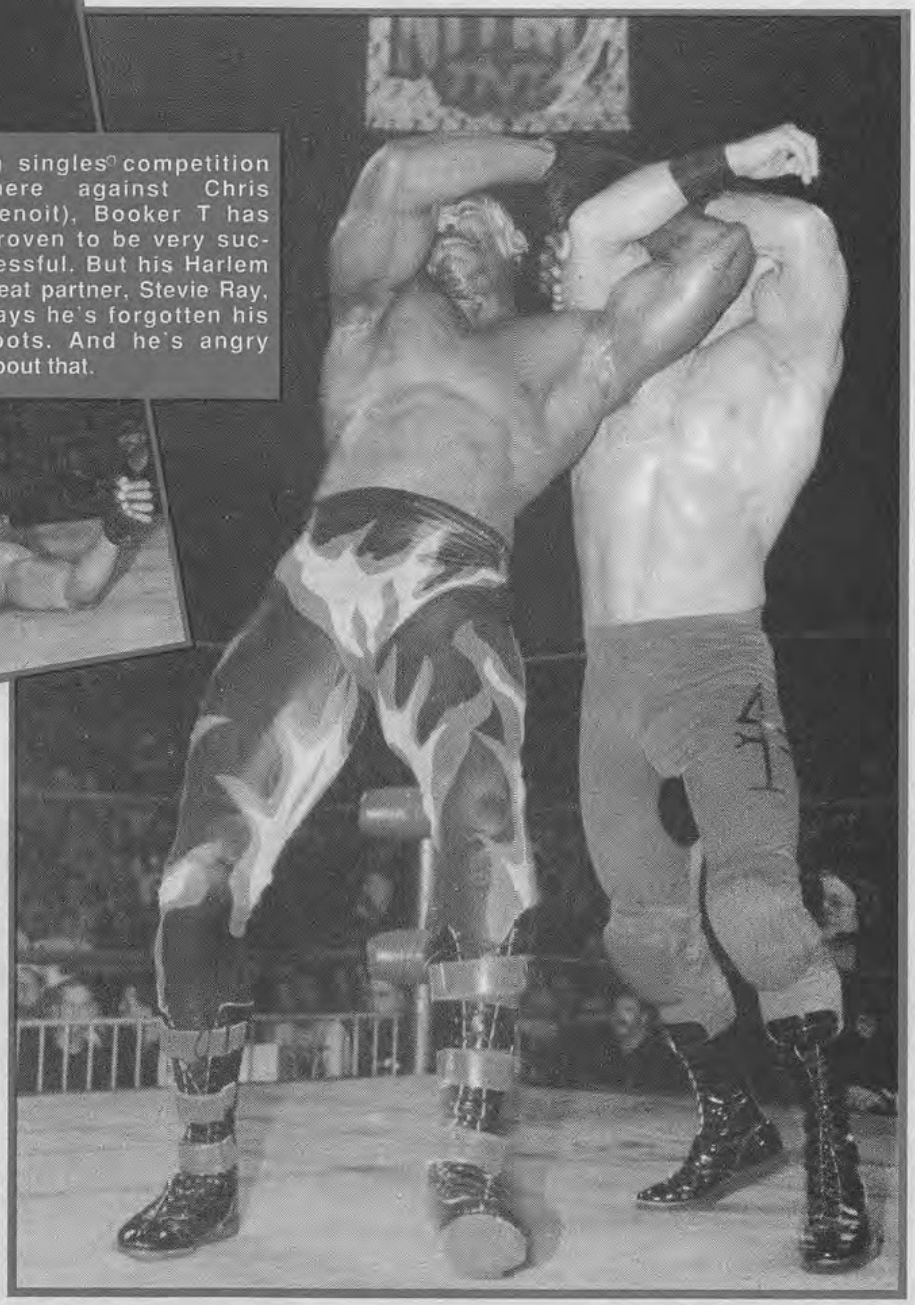
However, the last year has proven to be a bad one for tag teams in WCW. For most of the year, Scott Hall and Kevin Nash kept a stranglehold on the World



Together, Harlem Heat burned up WCW, winning seven World tag team titles and scorching some of wrestling's top duos. Today, Booker T, a four-time TV champion, has emerged as a bonafide singles contender ... and Stevie Ray isn't happy about it



In singles competition (here against Chris Benoit), Booker T has proven to be very successful. But his Harlem Heat partner, Stevie Ray, says he's forgotten his roots. And he's angry about that.



tag team belts. Title defenses became virtually nonexistent. Top teams such as the Steiners, Faces of Fear, and Mortis and Wrath went their separate ways. Until the end of '97, Harlem Heat kept plugging away, but the whole tag team division was starting to dry up. When Jacquelyn's feud with Disco Inferno began to overshadow the Heat's win-loss record, Stevie Ray and Booker T both knew something had to be done.

With Stevie Ray taking some time off to nurse a series of accumulated injuries, Booker T started accepting more singles matches. He looked to improve his cardiovascular training and expand his arsenal. When he was offered a shot against Disco for the TV title, Booker T thoroughly discussed the matter with his brother. Stevie Ray gave him his blessing, and Booker T was soon wrapping the TV belt around his waist.

In what many considered a surprise, Booker T established himself as one of the most successful TV champions in recent memory. Previously overlooked as only a tag team wrestler, Booker T began to collect wins over a list of competitors that includes Perry Saturn, Chris Jericho, Rick Martel, and Chris Benoit. Each time his arm was raised in victory, Stevie Ray saw another part of Harlem Heat begin to fade.

FORGOTTEN WHERE HE'S FROM!"

Against such duos as The Nasty Boys and Public Enemy, Stevie Ray (top, against Johnny Grunge) and Booker T (above, against Jerry Sags) exhibited fierce teamwork. Now that Booker's a solo success, he's getting heat from his brother.

"Look out that window," Stevie said as the Explorer screeched to a stop on a barely lit street corner facing a long-abandoned brick building. "That place used to be a gym my brother and me would go to every day. We knew that the only way we'd make it to the top was through workin' our tails off in there, lifting weights, hitting the bags. That was also the place where Booker learned all of those kicks of his. You know, the ones all of those fans are always cheering for. Now he works out in some health spa."

Stevie Ray pulled away and darted up and down another series of streets before stopping again, this time in front of a corner convenience store. Steel bars stood out in front of the windows.

"This is where we used to buy wrestling magazines when we were kids," Stevie said, his voice slightly losing some of its gruffness. "Every week we'd come in here and camp out on the floor, him reading about guys like Bobo Brazil, me reading about Bruiser Brody and The Crusher. We'd read all about those guys and go right back down the street and work out

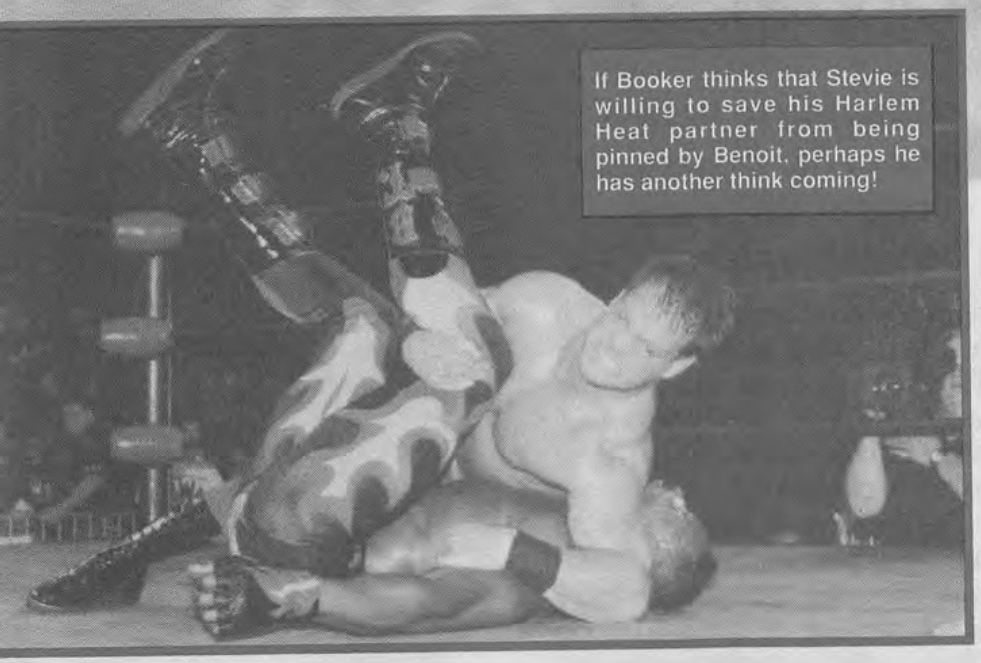
Are we likely to soon see Stevie Ray attacking Booker T the way Benoit is here? It's not out of the question given the deteriorating state of their relationship.

for six or seven hours."

The Explorer squealed off and tore down a series of potholed one-way streets. The truck passed a series of rundown projects before finally stopping in front of a dilapidated brownstone. Stevie Ray was quiet. There were no curtains in the windows. A broken tricycle lay in knee-high weeds on the tiny front lawn. Broken bottles filled what passed as a sidewalk.

"This is where we grew up," Ray said finally. "It wasn't all that long ago that we'd hang out at this house and talk about how we'd fix this place up when we hit it big. Booker's got a new home now, a real nice place with a swimming pool and a full-size basketball court out in the yard. This place here, it looks the same as it did 15 years ago. I wonder if Booker even remembers the address."

Stevie Ray has allowed these feelings to build up for a long time now. In fact, it seems hard to believe that Booker and Stevie were able to co-exist this long. Stevie Ray has always approached wrestling by the basics, by the rules of the streets where he grew up. You do what you got to do to survive. His brother has always liked to show off the flash, looking for a spot on the highlight reel. Stevie couldn't care less what the fans think of him. Booker likes to keep the fans entertained with a quick backspin that raises the roof. Stevie Ray is Jim Brown; Booker T is Deion Sanders. Stevie Ray is Joe Frazier; Booker T is Muhammad Ali.



If Booker thinks that Stevie is willing to save his Harlem Heat partner from being pinned by Benoit, perhaps he has another think coming!

Stevie Ray is angry; Booker T is hurt.

"I can't believe Stevie would even think those things, let alone tell 'em to a reporter," Booker said. "I'm loving wrestling singles, but I never for a moment forgot about Harlem Heat. When Stevie called me soft and weak on *Thunder*, it tore me up inside. I haven't forgotten where I'm from. If anything, Stevie's lost sight of where he's going."

Maybe he has, but Stevie remembers what made Harlem Heat one of the most devastating teams of the 1990s. Booker T better remember, or he might feel the Heat coming from the man he trusted most. □

ALEXANDRA YORK'S COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY

The Real Story Behind The Wrestling Tool For The '90s

By Bob Smith

HER RIGHT FOOT impatiently tapped the floor as the sign painter lightly pressed his brush against the glass door. This was pure gold leaf, after all. At a cost of several thousand dollars for the work being done, Alexandra York didn't want any smudges or mistakes.

"Get the name right," barked the haughty York. "It should read, 'Alexandra York, Founder, York Foundation.' I never cared for that 'administrative assistant' stuff, anyway. Now, *I'm* calling the shots, not Wall Street."

The Wall Street that York is referring to is *Michael* Wall Street, better known as Mike Rotundo. In late-1990, Rotundo inherited a large sum of money and hired York, a former computer programmer. York used her computer skills to assist Rotundo to an undefeated record for more than three months. When Rotundo left the NWA in January, York decided to become a full-fledged manager.

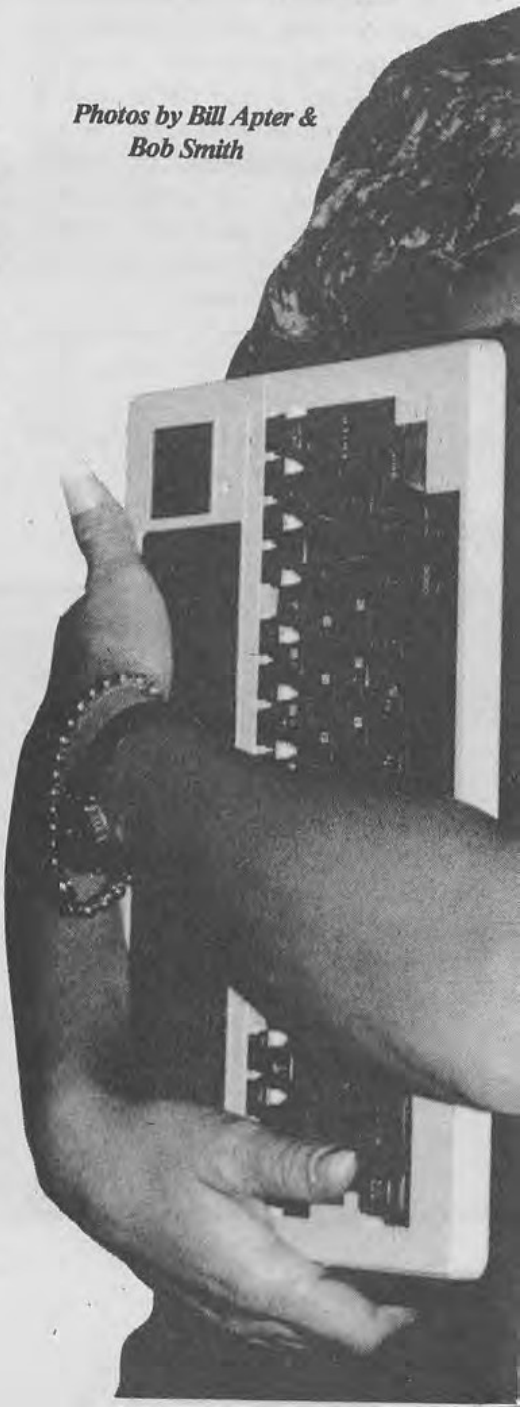
Rotundo's departure has only made York more anxious to achieve her dream of dominating the sport. In February, York opened her own offices in Atlanta. After dubbing her new company The York Foundation, the brilliant computer expert's first act was to sign Terry Taylor to a contract.

"It's time to get to work," York told a roomful of programmers during the first meeting in her lavish new office. "I want the files on all NWA competitors updated. In addition, I want accounts of all of Terry's matches for the past two years. Rotundo was undefeated, and that's fine—but I want Taylor to be a *champion*."

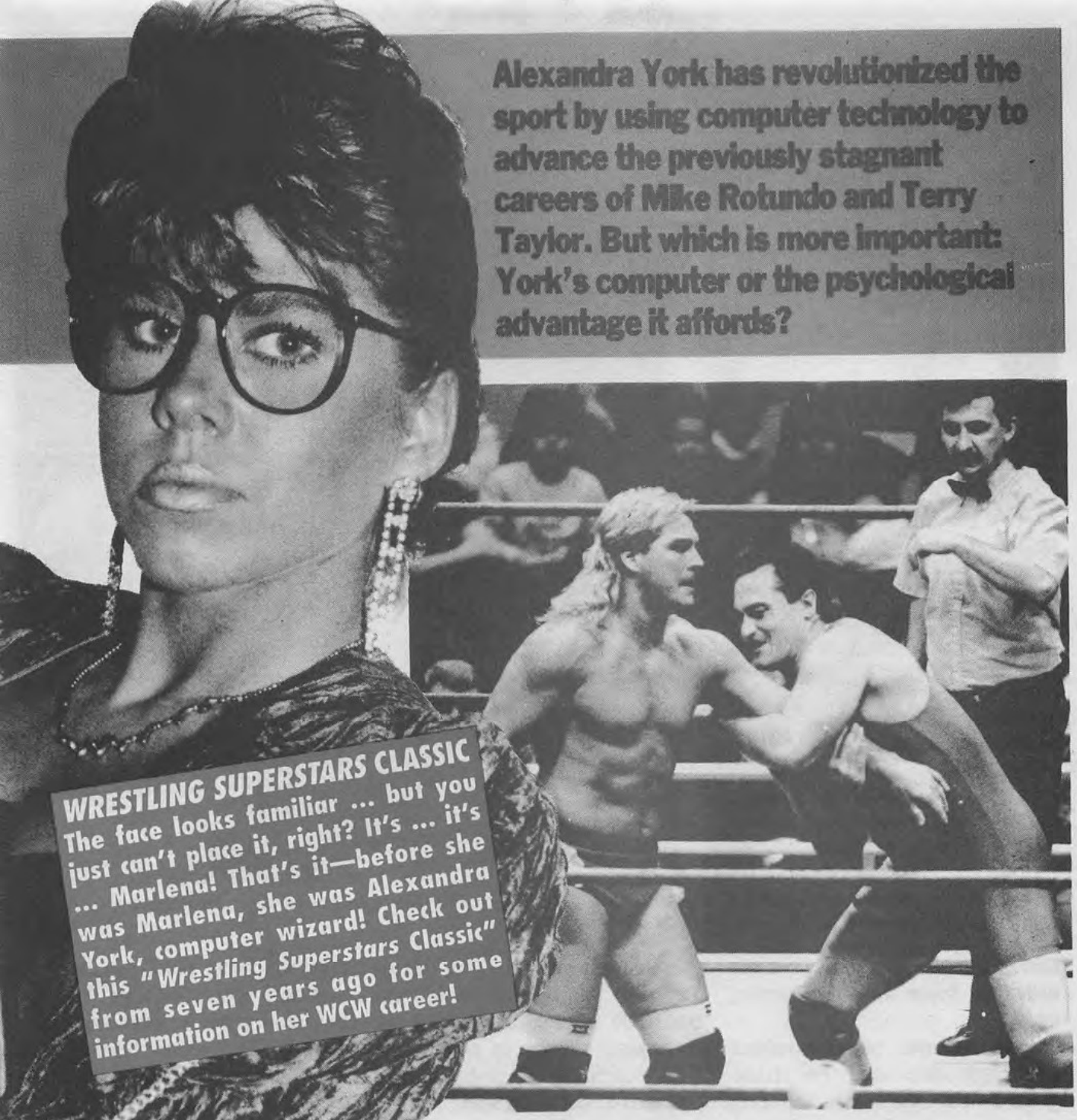
With York having worked wonders with both Rotundo and Taylor, wrestlers are clamoring to become part of her brave new world of VDTs and vertical suplexes.

For months, it was becoming apparent that the volatile Taylor was becoming increasingly angry about his lack of success in the NWA—which included several defeats at the hands of Rotundo. He

Photos by Bill Apter & Bob Smith



Alexandra York has revolutionized the sport by using computer technology to advance the previously stagnant careers of Mike Rotundo and Terry Taylor. But which is more important: York's computer or the psychological advantage it affords?



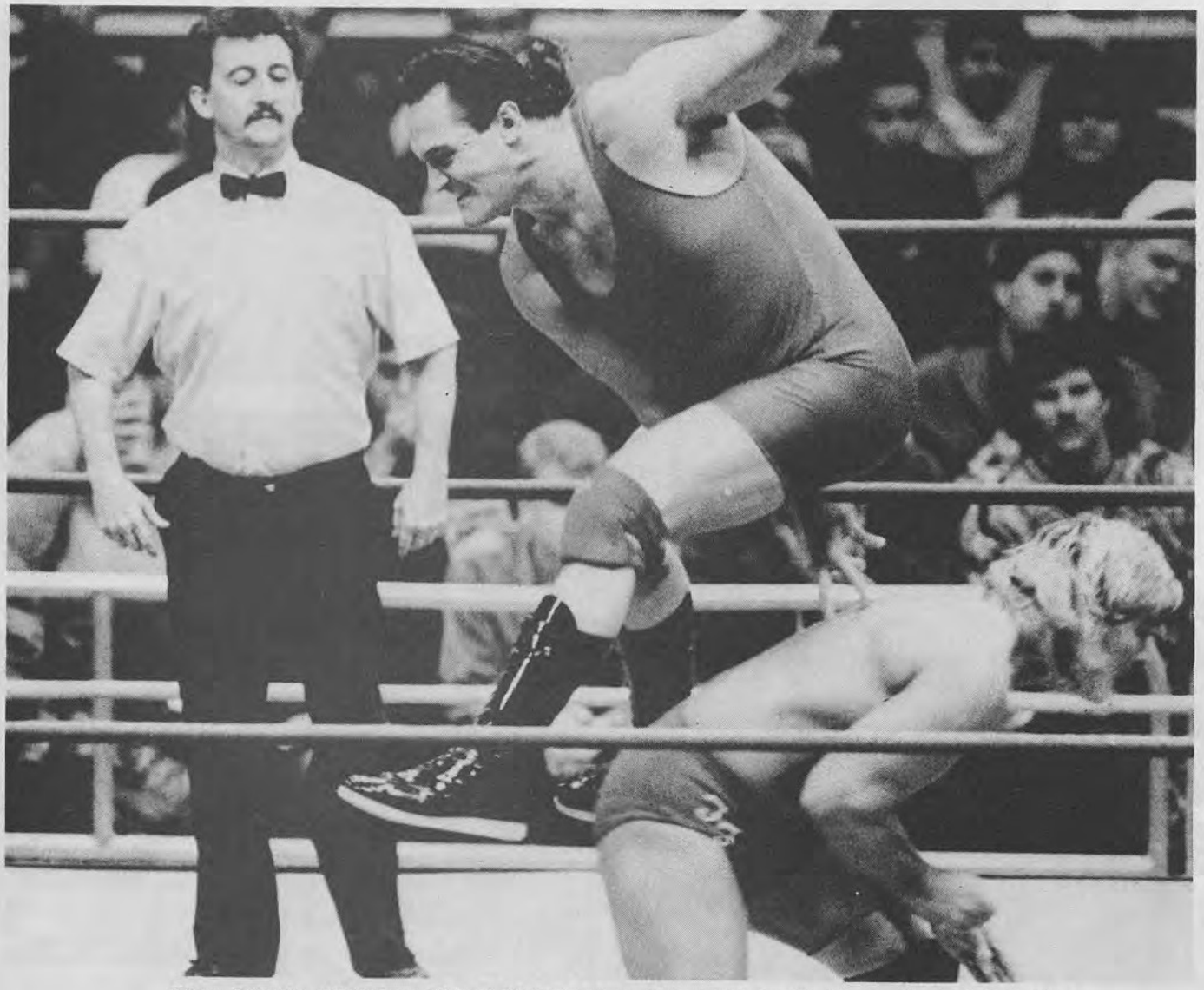
WRESTLING SUPERSTARS CLASSIC
The face looks familiar ... but you just can't place it, right? It's ... it's ... Marlena! That's it—before she was Marlena, she was Alexandra York, computer wizard! Check out this "*Wrestling Superstars Classic*" from seven years ago for some information on her WCW career!

Whenever Terry Taylor wrestled Mike Rotundo (top right), he was matched against the expertise of Alexandra York (left). Now he benefits from it.

was taking his frustrations out on everyone around him, including his friends and fans. Now, Taylor not only has a chip on his shoulder, but he has hundreds of *computer* chips working for him at ringside whenever York accompanies him to the ring.

"Alexandra is a genius," said an astounded Taylor after easily defeating Rick Morton recently. "It's really incredible! She lays out the groundwork, and I just follow the program. It never comes *close* to failing. If the computer says I'm going to beat someone in say, under 11:40, then I always win the match well within that time. I'm never gonna lose again, and it's all thanks to her."

When questioned about the contents of York's analytical computer programs, Taylor quickly changed the subject. With York having worked wonders with both Rotundo and Taylor, wrestlers are clamoring to become part of her brave new world of VDTs and ver-



When Rotundo debuted as Michael Wall Street, he brought York with him as his "administrative assistant," a title York now finds totally inappropriate.

tical suplexes. But just what exactly are these wrestlers getting into?

York remains secretive about her computers—and her background—but she's not the only expert in her field. Robert Dimetri, a professor who teaches computer science at the renowned David M. Everett Institute, admits that York has opened up an entirely new field of expertise.

"York obviously knows what she's doing," said Dimetri, who specializes in programs for banking and finance. "In my estimation, York's main programs use random number generators to determine the maneuvers of the *opponent* in a given situation, but not always of the offensive strategies of her wrestler. That allows Taylor to know what his foe will do, while at the same time not completely stifling his creativity.

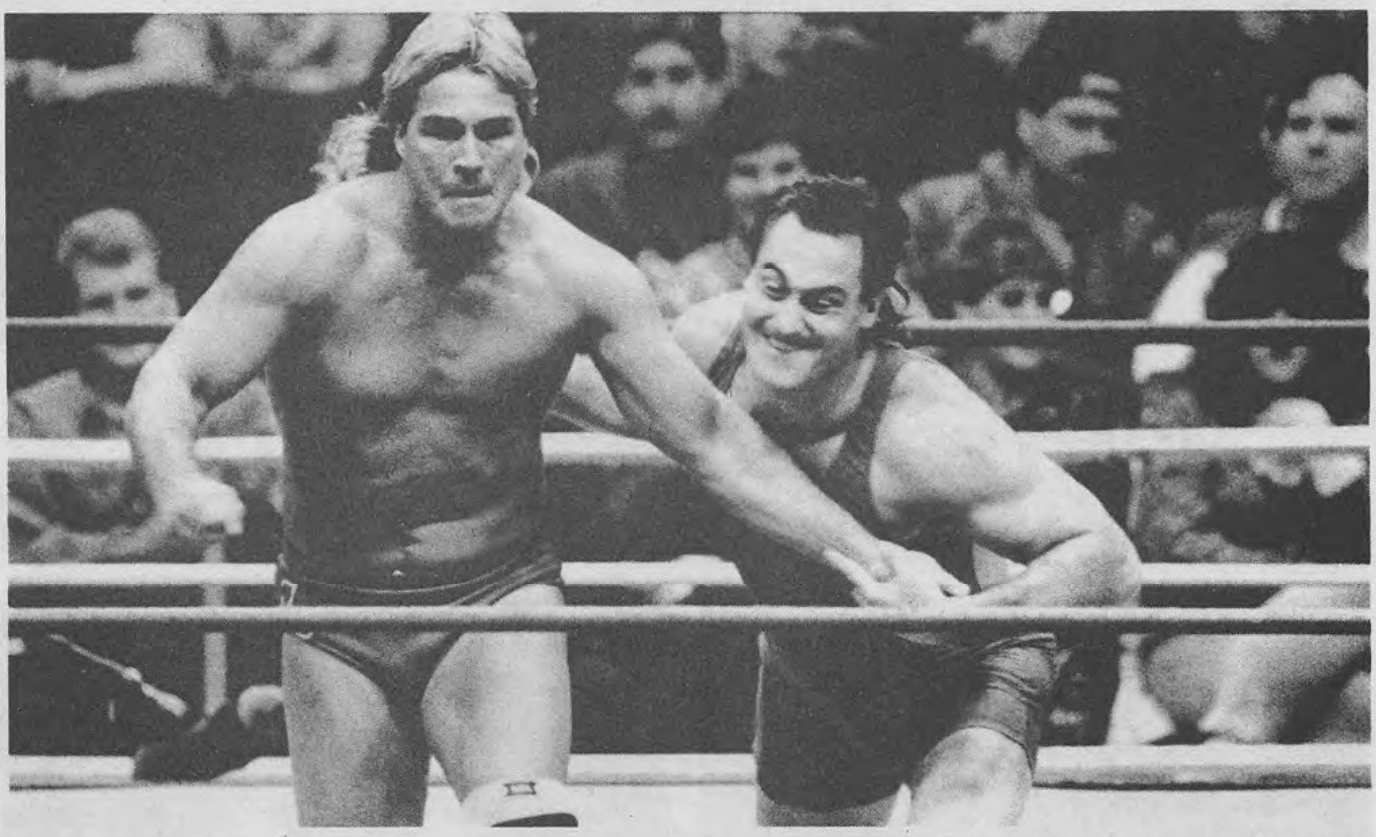
"It's actually a pretty simple program to come up with," continued Dimetri. "I imagine that the gathering of the information is the hardest part. It must take endless hours of legwork and investigative reporting. Obviously, she has some very good sources of that data."

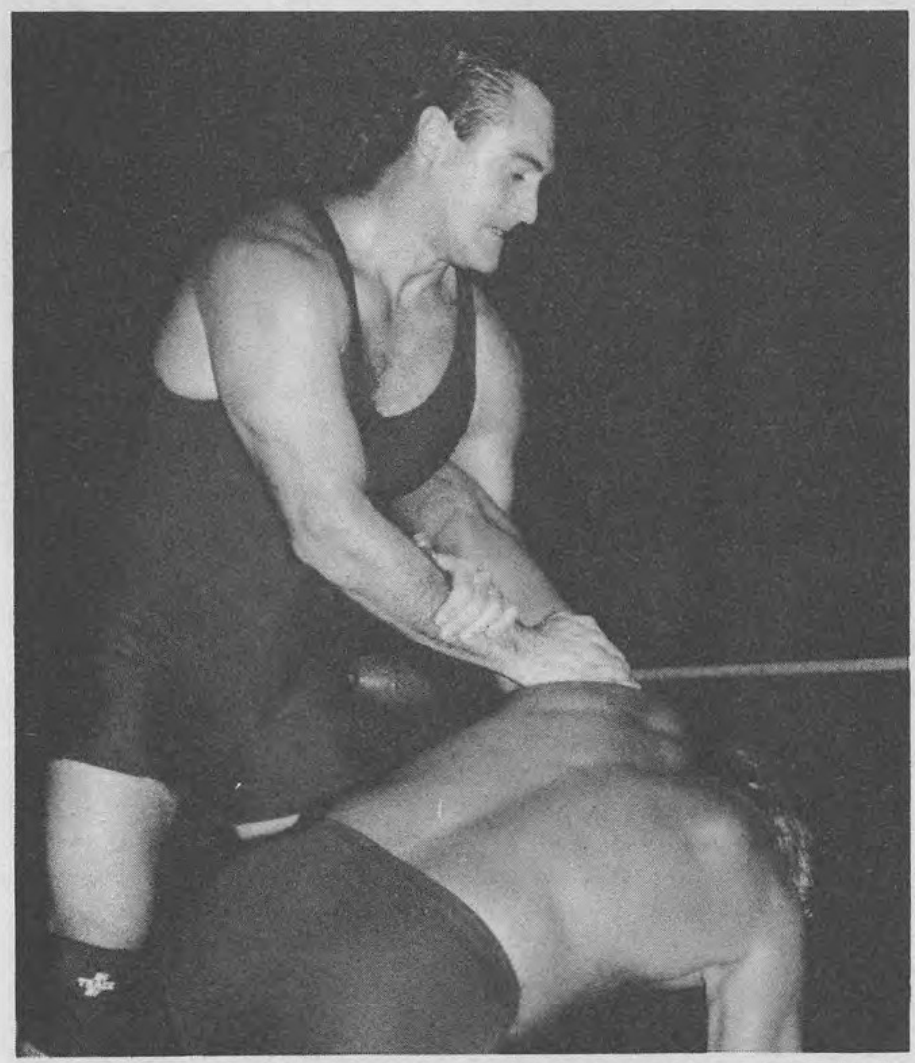
So where exactly *does* York get her information? No one in the NWA appears to be willing to answer that question.

"I'd never help her out," said NWA World champion Ric Flair. "Hey, York is obviously a real fox underneath those glasses and business suits, but I can get any woman I want, anyway. To give her information on wrestlers—particularly The Four Horsemen—would be plain crazy. It's tough enough in the NWA without giving guidance to some babe just because she's got a keyboard in her hand."

Despite Flair's denial, it is clear that York is indeed getting help from others in the NWA, perhaps from *several* sources. But even with all her technological aids and inside information, many grapplers continue to scoff at York's methods.

"It's an interesting ploy, but it won't work forever," insists Brian Pillman. "I think it's all a big psych-out. Computers can be





Just before leaving the NWA, Rotundo dominated Taylor (top and above), but York insists she'll take Taylor farther than she ever took Wall Street.

fooled. After all, there isn't a computer in the world that can beat a chess master. I think a flesh-and-blood wrestler has to be superior to a machine. Taylor's first loss will come soon, and when it does, he'll take that laptop—and York—and hurl 'em into the first trash can he sees."

York's main goal at present is to see that Taylor earns a championship by this summer. After that, she intends to add to her stable of electronically enhanced competitiors.

"I'm just getting started," York announced. "I've resurrected the careers of Rotundo and Taylor, but I have other ambitions—tag teams, female wrestlers, perhaps even an existing champion. There's no competitor in the sports world that my programs can't improve."

But for all her hyperbole, York has yet to lead a wrestler to a title. Her expensive concept, although innovative, could be rendered totally worthless the very first time Taylor loses a match.

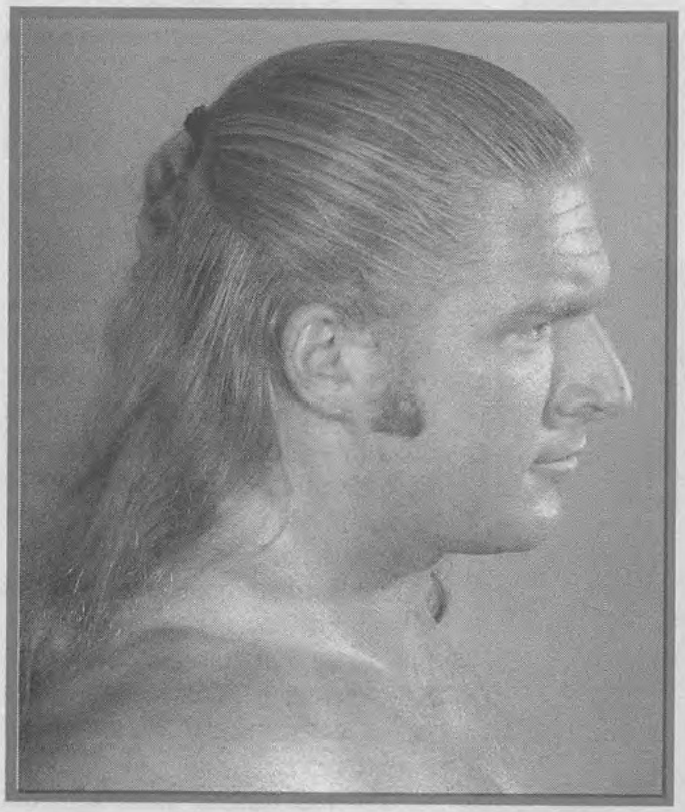
And, as York herself likes to say, that's a cold, hard fact. □

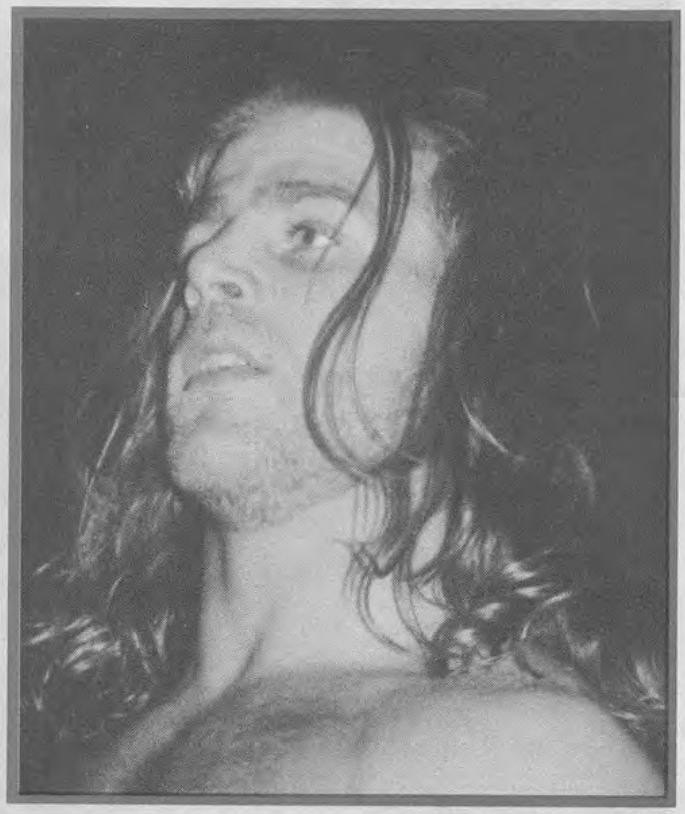
SUPERSTAR

DREAM MATCH

SHAWN MICHAELS vs. HUNTER HEARST HEMSLEY

COMPARING THE COMBATANTS





HUNTER HEARST HELMSLEY

Stands 6'5" and weighs in at 279 pounds ... In his seventh year as a pro ... Is in the midst of his second WWF reign as European champion. Helmsley is also a former Intercontinental champion ... Favorite maneuver is the "Pedigree" ... Biggest strengths: his confidence; he knows he has the backing of DeGeneration X ... Biggest weakness: He frequently underestimates the skills of his opponents.

SHAWN MICHAELS

Stands 6' and weighs in at 234 pounds ... In his 14th year as a pro ... A three-time former WWF World champion, three-time Intercontinental champion, and three-time WWF World tag team champion ... Ranked number one in the 1996 "*PWI* 500" ... Favorite move is the superkick ("sweet chin music") ... Biggest strength: great all-around wrestler who's at his best in big matches ... Biggest weakness: a seriously injured back.

THIS ISSUE'S "DREAM Match" is not what you might expect from seeing the combatants' names.

At first, you might expect that this "Dream Match" centers around the jealousy between two men, both of whom want to be the leader of DeGeneration X.

It doesn't.

Then you might suspect that this "Dream Match" is concerned with the jealousy of two men fighting over the interests of original DX member Chyna.

It doesn't.

Perhaps you're thinking that this "Dream Match" involves the WWF World title, the attention of another sports celebrity like Mike Tyson, or a contest to determine who will stand in the spotlight at the next WrestleMania.

It's bigger than all that.

Much bigger.

Read on.

In each issue, WRESTLING SUPERSTARS will present a sensational Dream Match, a spectacular battle involving the sport's greatest athletes. It's unlikely this match will ever happen anywhere—except in the pages of this magazine and in the arena of your imagination!

DOCTOR'S ORDERS

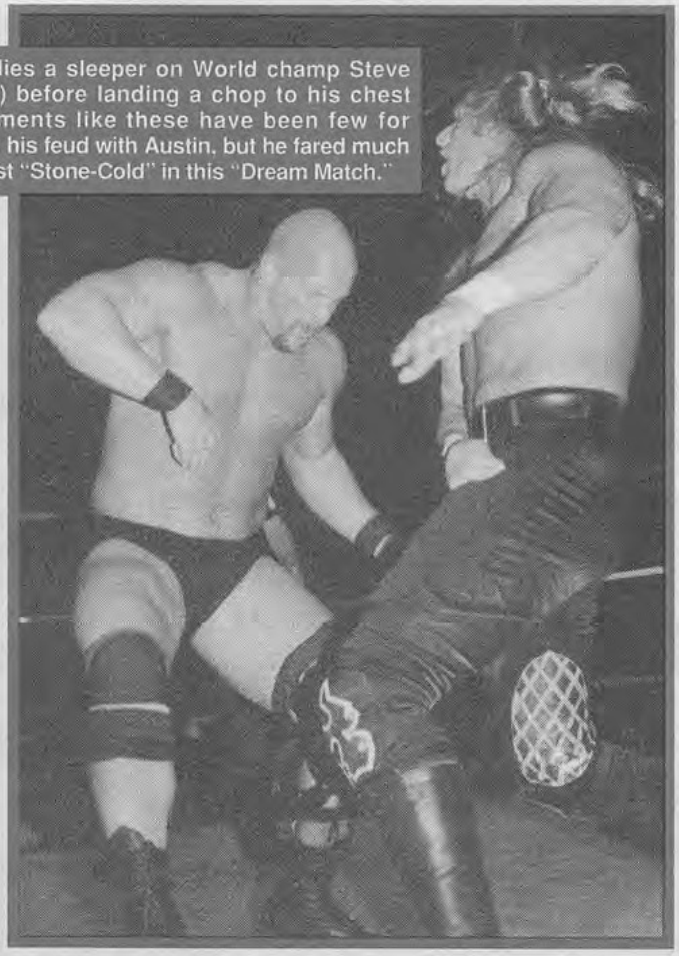
Shawn Michaels let out a deep sigh as the physician snapped off the light on the X-ray viewing machine. He knew precisely where the conversation was headed.

"Shawn, we've been through this time and time again," the doctor said, sounding like a parent who is disappointed at a child's repeated unwillingness to heed his instructions. "Those discs in your spine are not going to heal; the best you can hope for—without surgery—is to maintain the status quo. For a while, at least.

"But let's be honest," Shawn's doctor continued. "The natural deterioration of aging will work against you. It's like erosion of a shoreline. Sooner or later, the daily pain will be unbearable. I don't care how tough you think you are. You know it and I know it, and for either one of us to try to tell you otherwise is foolish.

"Sooner or later, you're looking at surgery, and I think sooner is the best course of action. Let's get in there and take a look around. Maybe we can do something. *Something*. But let's face it: to wrestle now? Under these conditions? Impossible. And downright stupid, unless you fancy yourself the next Christopher Reeve. You'll never recapture the physical man you were 10 years

The original DeGeneration X—Helmsley, Chyna, and Michaels (above)—was the most cohesive clique the WWF had seen in years. The Undertaker was often victimized by their brand of teamwork (left).



Hunter applies a sleeper on World champ Steve Austin (left) before landing a chop to his chest (right). Moments like these have been few for "Triple-H" in his feud with Austin, but he fared much better against "Stone-Cold" in this "Dream Match."

ago, but you can take smart steps now to maintain the physical man you are today.

"Think about it."

"Thanks, doc," Shawn muttered, then stifled a soft moan of discomfort (no doubt as much mental as physical) as he rose out of the chair to shake his physician's hand. "As usual, you've given me a lot to think about."

"I'm serious? Shawn," the doctor said. "Cut the crap. You're not a kid anymore. You've got some serious things to consider."

"I know, doc," Shawn said with resignation in his voice, then closed the door and stepped out into the hallway.

"I know."

ADDING INSULT TO INJURY

The custom-designed back massage device that Shawn Michaels had built into the easy chair in his den made sitting down and watching television feel like a trip to the chiropractor.

What comfort! No less than 17 massage points worked his body from the neck to the lower spine, with seven intensity settings available for each massage point.

"Best money I've spent in years," he told himself as he settled into his seat with a sandwich, a glass of ginger ale, and the remote control for the television.

It was Monday night, and WWF World champion Steve Austin was defending his title against Hunter Hearst Helmsley.

"This is going to be great," Michaels said to nobody in particular, gleefully anticipating his DeGeneration X rival receiving a brutal beating at the hands of the man who dethroned him at WrestleMania. "If Austin was man enough to beat me, he's going to grind that punk Helmsley into paste."

But Michaels almost choked on his meal as Helmsley answered the bell with a furious offensive attack that caught Austin by surprise. He was wrestling like a man possessed, and Austin didn't know what to make of it. Helmsley put on an uncommon display of wrestling virtuosity and never took a backward step. The fans in the MCI Center in Washington, D.C., didn't know whether to cheer or boo—so they sat there in virtual silence, 20,000 jaws hanging low in dumbstruck awe.

Then 20,000 chins hit the floor as Helmsley rolled up Austin for the pin and the title. X-Pac, Chyna, and The New Age Outlaws rushed the ring and carried Helmsley back to the dressing room on their shoulders.

Like the fans in the arena and Austin himself, Michaels was flabbergasted.

GET OUT—NOW!

Vince McMahon would have slammed the top of the boardroom table with his left fist, except his

left wrist was taped up. He was still recovering from a sprain suffered at the hands of Steve Austin.

"I am telling you, this is exactly what we need to do, and exactly the time we need to do it."

The various officers of TitanSports looked at each other. One of them looked at McMahon and said, "You're serious, aren't you?"

"Like a heart attack," the WWF head replied. "I'd make the decision myself, but I need your support as stated in the company charter."

"But why, Vince? Why now?"

McMahon's eyes narrowed. "Because we're all in this business for one thing, and we all know what that is. Professional wrestling is hotter than it's ever been. Hotter than when my father was at his peak, hotter than when I busted this sport wide open in 1985. It'll never get hotter than it is. So, like Jerry Seinfeld, I say it's time."

"It's going to be a hell of a bidding war," one officer said.

"With the World Wrestling Federation on the auction block," McMahon replied, "I would expect nothing less."

CORPORATE FEEDING FRENZY

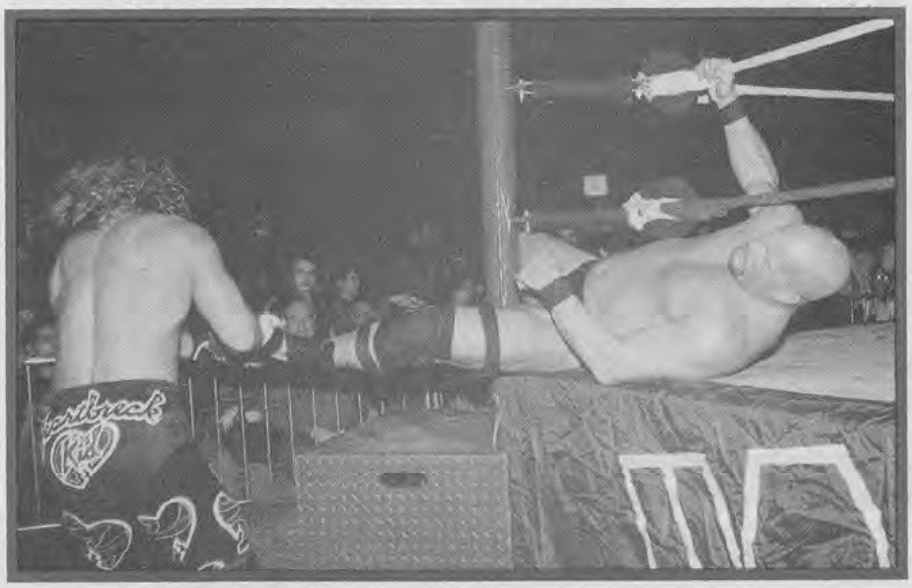
The World Wrestling Federation was at its most profitable point in its history, and McMahon was loving it. Corporate giants from Time Warner to Bertelsmann to Dreamworks SKG were putting in their bids. The frenetic negotiations were a dream come true for Mr. McMahon.

"The more big guns that come into the picture, the higher the price gets," McMahon told his wife, Linda. "And the longer the negotiations drag on, the better, because we're realizing some of the biggest profits ever right now! Not only are we maneuvering for the big kill, but we're making record money while we're at it! It doesn't get any better than this!"

A cover story in *Business Week* magazine reviewed the success of the World Wrestling Federation over the years and speculated on what McMahon would do next. "Given the financial position McMahon will find himself in," the magazine's reporter wrote, "he will enjoy a great deal of independence. Most men might retire and enjoy their success, but given McMahon's hunger for the spotlight and the thrill of succeeding in an entertainment venue, it's not unlikely that he may choose to open his own movie production company or mount some of the largest-scale rock tours the world has ever seen. We've even heard a rumor that he wants to purchase Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey! Can you imagine Vince McMahon owning The Greatest Show on Earth?"

For now, however, the show belonged to McMahon, his financial advisers, and a seemingly endless parade of suitors waving fat contracts with big numbers on them.

The "Heartbreak Kid" buries a boot in Ken Shamrock's throat (above) and works on Austin's knee (below). Fighting with men like these led Shawn to what many feared was an early retirement. What could possibly lure him back into the ring?



McMahon was loving every minute of it and was in no hurry to close a deal. He was willing to look at every offer sent his way.

Two very interesting offers were soon to cross his desk.

DEEP U.K. POCKETS

Ever since he began competing in the WWF, Hunter Hearst Helmsley remained in close contact with friends and business associates in the U.K.

Indeed, since winning the WWF World title, Helmsley and those associates had been speaking on at least a daily basis. Faxes and e-mails were sent back and forth across the Atlantic with uncommon urgency.

The bottom line: A consortium of U.K. businessmen, with Helmsley as their front man, wanted to make an offer for the WWF. A very lucrative offer, made even more so by the fact that Helmsley was wearing the WWF World heavyweight title belt.

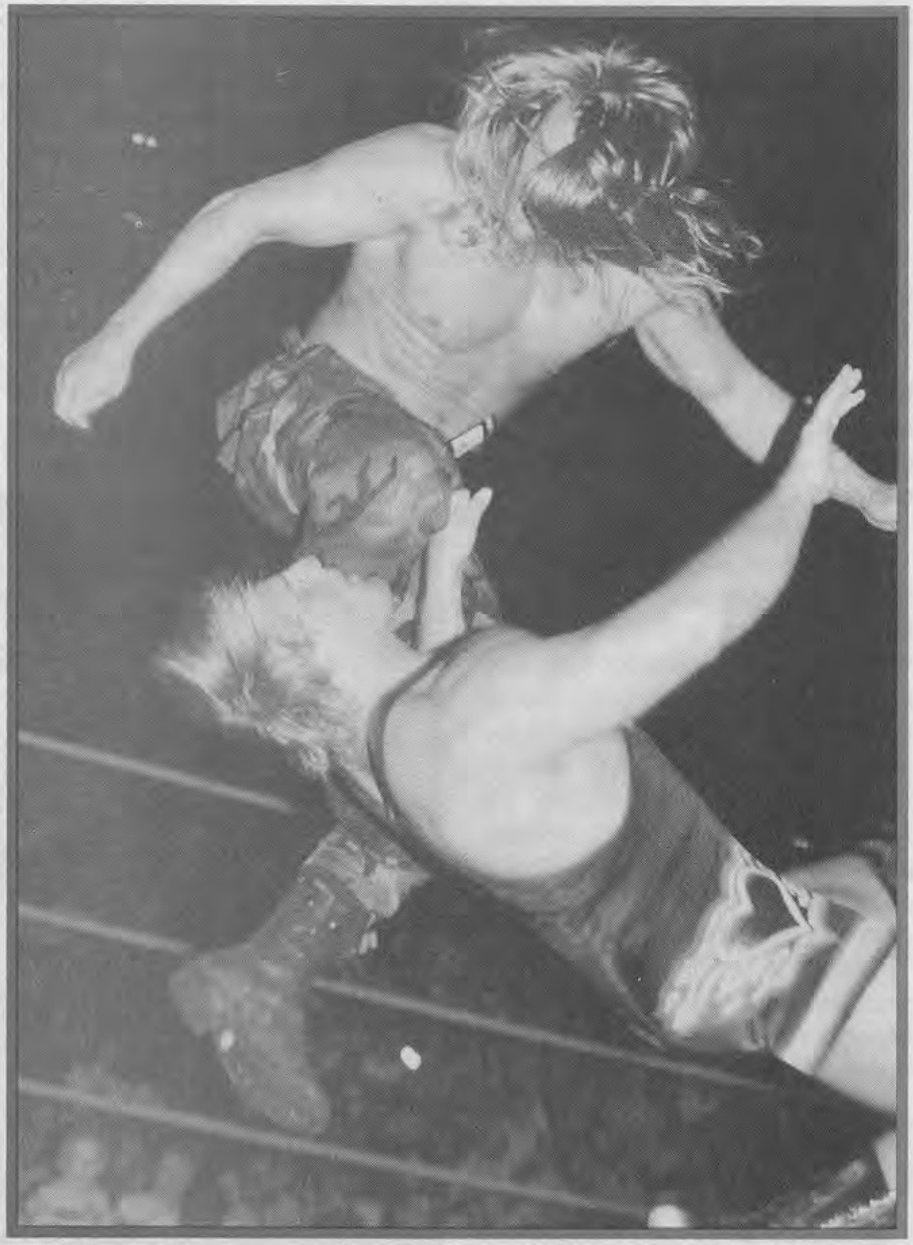
"Oh my goodness!" was McMahon's reaction upon breaking the seal on the proposed contract of sale and reviewing the contents of the thick manila envelope. "I had no idea Helmsley was *this* connected! Ha! Well, good for him ... and good for me! This is a very, very enticing offer, indeed."

Made even more so by the fact that the contract included not only big financial numbers, but significant inducements above and beyond an exchange of money.

"I understand wrestling, and I understand the promoter's mind," Helmsley said. "There are some extras in this contract that I believe will swing Mr. McMahon over to my side. And when you get to talking these kinds of big numbers, a few million more or less makes no difference ... it's all in the extras."

DeGENERATION EXTRA

"This is the opportunity of a lifetime! I want to get in there, and I don't just want to compete, I want to *win!* I don't just *want* to win, I *will* win! There *are* no alternatives!"



"Triple-H" lands a kick to the head of Owen Hart, a man he defeated for the European title. With Michaels' back on the mend, Hunter has assumed leadership of DeGeneration X.

As he screamed into the phone, there was a fire in Shawn Michaels' eyes that hadn't been there in such full force since he stepped into the ring at WrestleMania X to face Razor Ramon in a ladder match that ultimately was voted *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* Match of the Year for 1994.

"I know the money's out there, you know the money's out there, and you know that with me at the helm, the World Wrestling Federation will have what it needs to enter the 21st century stronger than ever. I don't give a damn how much money Michael Eisner and Disney are putting up, I will outbid the rat no matter what! Now let's get a financial package together that works and make it happen! No ... there is no trying! There is doing and there is not doing, and this is something we will do, period, the end!"

Michaels slammed down the phone, took a deep breath, and smiled.

"I think I found the one thing better than being WWF World champion," he said with a satisfied grin on his face.

AT TITAN TOWERS

Vince McMahon relished the irony of it all.

"Incredible, isn't it?" he said to his corporate officers, who were joined by Hunter Hearst Helmsley and his financial representatives, plus Shawn Michaels and his coterie of three-piece suits. "It really is quite a remarkable thing. Quite remarkable, indeed."

McMahon rose from his seat at the head of the meeting table and began pacing around the room.

"Notwithstanding the financial incentives, you both bring additional considerations to the table that are, shall we say, quite enticing." McMahon's financial and legal operatives nodded their heads in collective agreement. "Of course, you both bleed professional wrestling, so it's no wonder that you could bring a depth of understanding to the contractual process that those other bean counters could hardly appreciate.

"But what we're here to do today is to narrow down the process, to refine the discussions among the three represented interests here so that ..."

"A match," Helmsley interjected.

"Precisely, Hunter," McMahon replied. "It's not unlike a match in which the best man ..."

"No, I mean a match. A real match. Me and Shawn. Winner take ownership of the WWF under the terms of the specific contract presented."

The officers of TitanSports were astounded. Michaels' operatives whispered among themselves; Helmsley's did the same.

Michaels, however, was quick to answer the challenge.

"You're on!"

"Done!" Helmsley said without even waiting for a response from McMahon.

"My God, Shawn, the doctor's reports!" one of his lawyers said.

"My God," McMahon said to no one in particular, "the pay-per-view receipts!"

HBK lands a legdrop on Shamrock. Michaels disobeyed doctors orders to participate in the "Dream Match" against the man who was once his closest ally. Was the chance of paralysis worth the risk?

MORE DOCTOR'S ORDERS

"I won't do it. Absolutely no way in this lifetime. I will not sign that piece of paper."

Shawn Michaels' physician was adamant. There was no changing his mind.

"Doc, I need you to. It's an insurance matter. State regulations. Come on, I don't have to explain the red tape to you. This is important. Just this one time, one more match, the last one ever. Win or lose, I swear I will never wrestle again ... after this one match."

"Shawn, I simply cannot in good conscience sign that paper. Your back is a mess. You're risking permanent paralysis. Or worse. My God, man, don't you see that nothing is worth what you're risking?"

"Yes it is, doc," Michaels said seriously. "We're talking about my life here, my future, everything."

"Yes, we are," the doctor responded, "and I will not permit you to put your life on the line. I will not be party to a match that might be your last whether you choose it to be or not. I am *not* signing that paper."

"Doc—sign it! Please. Please!"

"I won't."

"There are other doctors I can go to."

"I'm sure there are. And you probably will. But my conscience will be clean."

"Fine."

Michaels took the paperwork and left his doctor's office, seeking the services of a more cooperative physician.

My conscience is clear, Shawn, the doctor thought. *But is yours?*

PREMATCH THOUGHTS: HELMSLEY

"This is going to be great," Hunter Hearst Helmsley said to a meeting that included X-Pac and The New Age Outlaws. "Not only will I get the chance to beat the crap out of Shawn once and for all, but I'll have the very future of the World Wrestling Federation in my hand when that hand is raised in victory! Then DeGeneration X truly will rule the wrestling world! We will shape not only the future of DX, but the future of the WWF—*all the WWF!*—and the future of the entire sport worldwide!"

PREMATCH THOUGHTS: MICHAELS

"I hope," Michaels said to himself frequently in the days before the match, "that I come out of this thing in one piece."

MATCH TIME!

One of the most striking things about the bout wasn't that it sold out the Superdome in New Orleans ("Scalped tickets are going for as high as $500 each on Bourbon Street!" reported one local news station) or drew the highest pay-per-view buy rate of all-time (14.3 percent of all available homes, according to estimates the next morning), but the fact that news about the contest was appearing on the business pages as well as in the sports and entertainment sections!

Indeed, when Hunter Hearst Helmsley and Shawn Michaels stood face-to-face in the ring in the Superdome, they were all business.

Helmsley pins Owen Hart, a man he has handled somewhat easily thanks to the interference of Chyna and The New Age Outlaws. Oddly enough, Chyna, The New Age Outlaws, and X-Pac were nowhere to be found in our "Dream Match."

A microphone on the lapel of referee Earl Hebner beamed their words to a worldwide audience of millions.

"You're a decrepit old man, Shawn," Helmsley said as the two men engaged in a nose-to-nose staredown. "You shouldn't even be here. You ought to be home in your easy chair with a glass of warm milk with a nurse rubbing your back."

"I hope you're ready to find out just how decrepit I am," Michaels shot back. "On the worst day of my career, I wrestled 10 times better than your best, you pathetic excuse for a human being."

"Gentlemen, gentlemen," Hebner admonished, "I want a clean match. And may the better man win."

"Better has nothing to do with it," Michaels sneered before making the first mistake of the match that hadn't even begun yet: He turned his back on Helmsley to return to his corner.

Helmsley shoved the referee out of the way and planted his size-12 boot right into the small of Michaels' back. Michaels, caught off-guard, collapsed in pain to the canvas as the timekeeper rang the bell repeatedly.

"The match is on!" Hebner cried, and the fans roared their approval.

But there was nothing to approve in Helmsley's actions. He followed up his sneak-attack with a series of boots to the head that kept Michaels prone on the canvas. Michaels squirmed like a fish out of water, trying to position his body so that Helmsley's attack wouldn't be focused on the most vulnerable areas of his injured back. But in doing so, he made the second mistake of the match: He left himself wide open for a Boston crab.

Helmsley saw the opening and took it. A maniacal grin crossed his face as he locked on the hold and applied pressure that had Michaels screaming in gut-wrenching agony.

Somewhere back in Texas, Michaels' doctor turned off the television set, not caring that the $49.95 pay-per-view fee would be wasted. He simply could not see any more of the carnage.

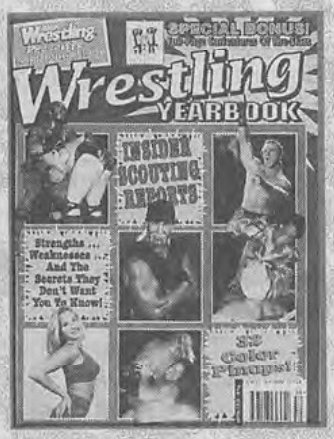
Helmsley, meanwhile, was forced to break the hold as Michaels succeeded in reaching the ropes. He rolled out of the ring and

(Continued on page 68)

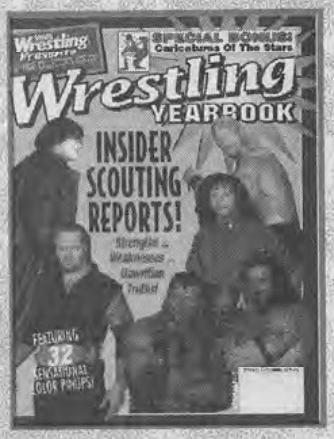
WRESTLING COLLECTORS!

Do you know what you're missing?

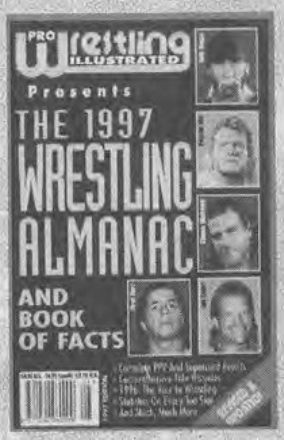
We have limited remaining supplies on five of the most popular issues London Publishing has ever produced! Order now—before they're all gone!



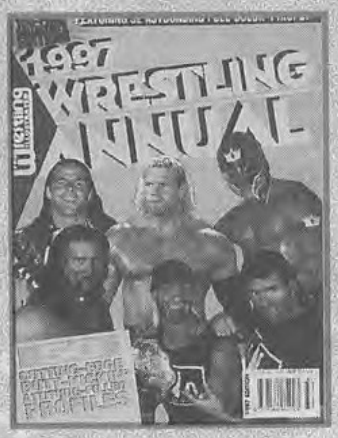
1996 WRESTLING YEARBOOK
Exclusive scouting reports on 30 of wrestling's best. PLUS—30 hilarious full-page caricatures by *PWI's* Jason Conlan! 100 pages! 32 color pinups!



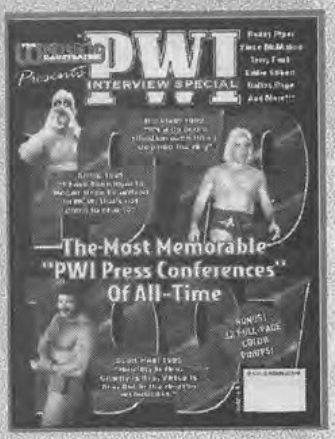
1997 WRESTLING YEARBOOK
We turn loose caricaturist Jason Conlan one more time (whether his subjects like it or not!). 30 scouting reports. 32 color pinups!



1997 ALMANAC
The authoritative wrestling reference tool. Full pay-per-view and supercard results. Title histories. Every "*PWI* 500." 1996 Stats. Digest-sized. 196 pages!



1997 WRESTLING ANNUAL
Butt-kickin', attitude-filled "pro-files," plus a look at what we felt was ahead in 1997 for wrestling's top stars. What's in, what's out. 100 pages! 32 color pinups!



PWI INTERVIEW SPECIAL
One select "Press Conference" since 1979, *PWI's* first year. Scott Hall, Bruno Sammartino, Dallas Page, Kevin Von Erich, Ric Flair, and more! 32 color pinup!

- ☐ 1996 Wrestling Yearbook
- ☐ 1997 Wrestling Yearbook
- ☐ 1997 Wrestling Almanac
- ☐ 1997 Wrestling Annual
- ☐ PWI Interview Special

Please send the collector's issues I have indicated! I have enclosed $7 per issue as payment in full (postage included) or provided my credit card number to charge my purchase ($20 minimum please). Send to:

London Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 910
Ft. Washington, PA 19034

Name_____
Address_____
City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Please indicate method of payment:
☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)
☐ VISA #_____
☐ MasterCard #_____
Expiration Date:___/___
MO YR

Signature:_____

For all orders outside the U.S., you must add $1.50 for every issue to be sent surface mail, and $3 for every issue to be sent airmail. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

CINGTHEBELL on Archive.org

4690/02-98/2c

(Continued from page 66)

didn't even hear Helmsley's taunts; the pain wracking his body was too loud, and he was too busy gulping air to care about much of anything else. It was only when he heard the referee's count nearing 10 that he was able to force himself back into the ring.

Then the adrenaline took over.

There are stories of 90-pound women who have lifted cars to save children from injury. Michaels is no 90-pound woman, but his child—the future of the WWF and his own career—was being threatened, and he reacted accordingly.

He no longer felt the pain. His body began responding like it had never been injured, and a Match of the Year effort began pouring forth. Incredible holds and maneuvers were unleashed, and Helmsley was in trouble.

Then Michaels evidently made the third mistake of the night. After scaling the second rope, he unleashed what he had hoped would be a "Frankensteiner." But Helmsley was ready. Too ready. He grabbed Michaels in mid-air and shifted his body's momentum, turning Michaels' intended move into his own power bomb.

Michaels' body hit the canvas with a sickening thud. He didn't move. At all. Not a squirm. Not a twitch. The Superdome audience let out a collective gasp of horror.

Helmsley knew what he'd done ... and he gloated.

"You wanted it, now you got it!" he screamed, but Michaels' body was so immobile that even Helmsley wondered if he'd heard what he said.

The referee pushed Helmsley away to examine Michaels. The doctor in attendance scrambled through the ropes. The ringside area was a frenzy of activity. Someone called for the paramedics from the backstage area.

Helmsley, almost sickeningly, continued to gloat. And in doing so, he made the fourth mistake of the match: He leaned over the utterly motionless Michaels in a nose-to-nose confrontation that echoed their prematch harangue.

In a split-second, Michaels' eyes opened, he looked directly into Helmsley's eyes, grinned, and whispered one word: "Sucker!" With Herculean effort, Michaels brought his legs up, wrapped them around Helmsley's neck, flipped him over to the canvas, and amidst the chaos—and with paramedics looking on from ringside thoroughly stunned—scored the three-count.

It was the most improbable finish to the most incredible match the sport had ever seen.

But there was more to come.

A very flexible Michaels uses some "sweet chin music" on "Brooklyn Brawler" Steve Lombardi. Barely able to walk, Michaels couldn't rely on his favorite move against Helmsley.

AFTERMATH

Two days after the pay-per-view event, Shawn Michaels limped into Vince McMahon's office at Titan Towers to close the deal that would make him the head of the World Wrestling Federation. But McMahon wasn't there. In fact, McMahon's secretary wasn't there, either. And the name on McMahon's door had been changed.

"Eric Bischoff?!" Michaels cursed loudly and kicked the door open. Behind the desk, on the phone, was Bischoff ... smiling.

"You should have been here yesterday, as the contract stated," Bischoff said smugly. "Too bad. Gave me a chance to close a sweetheart of a deal."

The blood rose in Michaels' neck. He took a step toward Bischoff, who rose from his chair and warned Michaels not to come closer. Michaels stopped, but his body shook with rage.

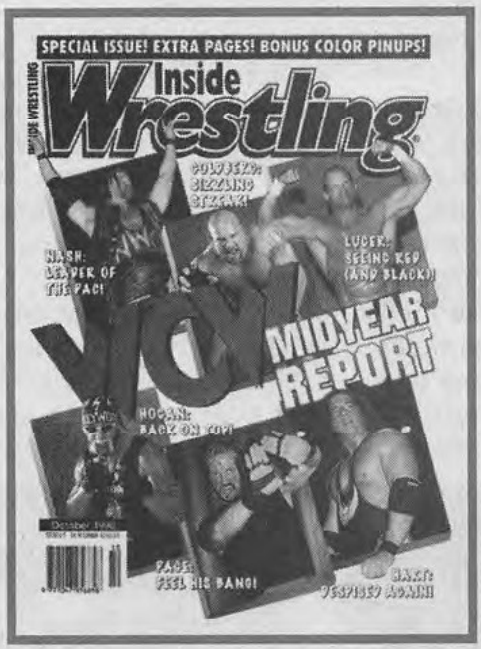
Suddenly, with a mighty effort, he lunged not at Bischoff, but at his desk, heaving it over and literally burying Bischoff beneath 600 pounds of fine oak and office supplies.

As Bischoff screamed for help, Michaels spat a juicy gob of spittle right at the new WWF owner's face. He missed his target slightly; the gob landed smack in the middle of Bischoff's perfectly coiffed hair.

Then he turned his back on the scene, left Titan Towers, and, true to his word to his doctor, never wrestled again. □

THIS MONTH IN...

Inside Wrestling

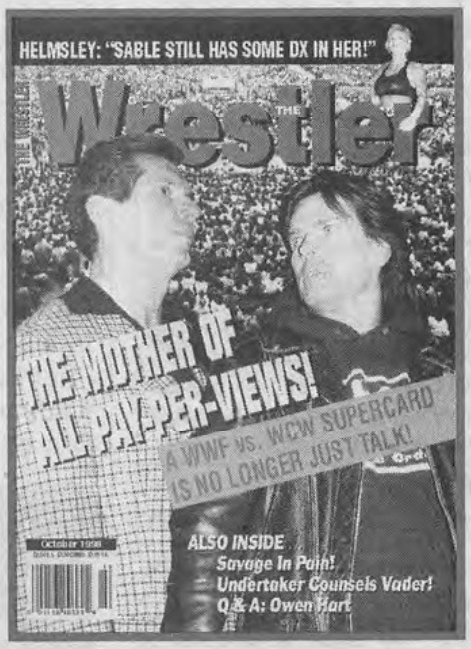


Could things be any more confusing in WCW? We don't just have the NWO, but **NWO WOLFPAC** and **NWO HOLLYWOOD**. And a strong group of wrestlers is still loyal to WCW. It's a good time to present our WCW Midyear Report. We'll let you know who's doing well and who needs to improve as we recap the first half of 1998 ... Okay, so **THE UNDERTAKER** is on **STEVE AUSTIN's** side in the Austin-**VINCE McMAHON** war, but are there others who are just afraid to step forward? What happens when they do? ... **HOLLYWOOD HOGAN** answers questions about **THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR** in "Hotseat"

All this—and much more—in the October 1998 issue of ***Inside Wrestling***

NOW ON SALE

The Wrestler



ERIC BISCHOFF challenges **VINCE McMAHON** to show up at a WCW PPV. **DeGENERATION X** invades CNN Center. WCW and WWF wrestlers appear together at a benefit card. Could we be getting closer and closer to a WWF vs. WCW pay-per-view? ... **SABLE** has been through tough times recently, but what does **HUNTER HEARST HELMSLEY** mean when he says she "still has some DX in her!" She wouldn't, would she? ... **RANDY SAVAGE** has been wrestling with a partially torn ACL for several months. How painful is that? We asked a man who refereed one of Savage's matches, and he told us some shocking stuff!

All this—and much more—in the October 1998 issue of ***The Wrestler***

NOW ON SALE

Did you ever wonder how YOU could get into Pro Wrestling?

Maybe as a valet, manager or even a wrestler?
Or in one of **MANY** non-wrestling positions?

OR DO YOU WANT TO FIND OUT "MORE" ABOUT WRESTLING?

Now YOU can find out what you need to know to enter the exciting world of Pro Wrestling! This very insightful **new 1998 Edition** is written by two active professionals in the wrestling business who have worked for every major wrestling association including WCW and the WWF! You are advised what to do, where to write, how to act, what to say, how to get various jobs, what your chances are – and how to better those odds! Explains many "inside" things you never knew, but need to know!
• Details over 50 different jobs possible in pro wrestling!
• Lists addresses of U.S. promotions and best wrestling schools • Tells you where to order boots, tights, etc., in U.S. and U.K. • Charge it!

Updated chapter about the NWO!

1998 Inside Secrets on How YOU Can Enter The Exciting World of Pro Wrestling!

Price of 1998 Edition is only $15, incl. postage!
Add $5 s/h outside U.S. - **Send Visa, MasterCard, Money Order or cash for quickest shipment!**

PRO WRESTLING CAREER BOOK
2480-4 Briarcliff Rd, Ste. 256 • Atlanta, GA 30329

MOVING?

Kindly give us 8 weeks advance notice
Are you moving? If so, please give us 8 weeks advance notice so we can continue to service your subscription promptly. Check the magazine(s) listed below you subscribe to:

- ☐ PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED
- ☐ THE WRESTLER
- ☐ INSIDE WRESTLING
- ☐ WRESTLING SUPERSTARS/ WRESTLE AMERICA
- ☐ THE WRESTLING ANALYST
- ☐ PWI WEEKLY

NAME
OLD ADDRESS
CITY
STATE ZIP
NEW ADDRESS
CITY
STATE ZIP
EFFECTIVE DATE

CLIP THIS FORM AND SEND TO:
LONDON PUBLISHING CO.
DEPT 9, P.O. BOX 2029
MARION, OH 43302

4687/02-98/2c

FAN FORUM

(Continued from page 5)

EXTREME PAIN

It's a good thing your magazines never granted world title status to ECW, as the action in that promotion has almost ground to a halt. It seems as though their so-called hardcore style is coming back to bite Paul E. Dangerously in the butt. Many of his best wrestlers are hobbled by injuries.

The Sandman, Tommy Dreamer, Taz, Shane Douglas, and others are so banged up that some of the matches look like they are taking place in slow motion. There is only so much of Danny Doring and The Full-Blooded Italians a fan can watch. Paul E. needs to get some new, healthy talent in there soon. All I can say is, thank God for Rob Van Dam and Sabu. They both deserve a big raise.

VICKI PEIRCE
Emmaus, PA

[Editor's note: Check out "Superstar Grapevine" on page 6 for information on some new arrivals in ECW.]

DREAM TIME

Hats off to whoever came up with the idea for "Superstar Dream Match: Three-Way Dance! WWF vs. WCW vs. ECW" (August 1998). It was a great idea, and it's something that I've thought about before. What a great article!

But there were some glaring omissions from the lineups of each federation. What, no Giant? Lose DDP and get the big man in there. Wouldn't you love to see

Little Guido and Tracey Smothers double-team John Kronus. With a number of ECW's top stars banged up, Vicki Peirce says it's time for an infusion of new talent. Mid-carders like Danny Doring and the FBI don't excite her.

him use the choke-slam on Paul E.? The WWF should scratch Shawn in favor of another big man, like Kane or Vader. ECW should do the same for Tommy Dreamer in favor of Bam Bam Bigelow or Buh Buh Ray Dudley. When it comes to professional wrestling, size does matter, especially when the smaller wrestler is as banged up as Michaels or Dreamer. No knock on these guys, but they are worn down right now.

Those are just my opinions. Anyway, I thought you guys did a great job.

CHRIS MARKS
Chesilhurst, NJ

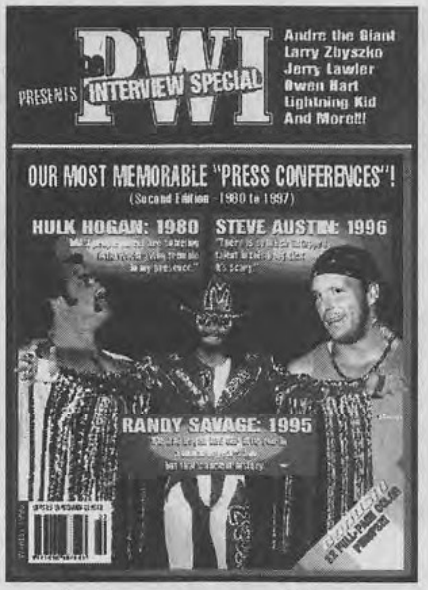
WELCOME BACK

After taking a few years off from watching wrestling, I was pleasantly surprised to see 2 Cold Scorpio on a recent episode of *Raw*. Scorpio, or Flash Funk, as I remember him, was one of the most underrated wrestlers to ever compete in the WWF. His aerial attack and energy always kept me watching. And now that my main man is back in the WWF, I will be watching on a full-time basis again.

NORA GREEN
Asbury Park, NJ □

2 Cold Scorpio has been a celebrated competitor in the WWF for several years, and now that Nora Green knows he's back, she's going to tune into *Raw Is War* all the time.

IT'S MORE THAN A LOT OF TALK!



PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

Presents

PWI INTERVIEW SPECIAL!

OUR FIRST ISSUE WAS A NEWSSTAND SELLOUT!!

VOLUME II IS NOW ON SALE AT YOUR LOCAL NEWSSTAND!!

Join our editors as we speak with ...

- Hulk Hogan (1980) about his plans for the WWF and World champion Bob Backlund
- Andre the Giant (1981) about his world title jinx
- Jim Crockett (1986) about his promotional war with Vince McMahon
- Sting (1990) about his violent feud with Lex Luger
- AWA World champion Rick Martel (1985), whose biggest problem was a 100-pound woman
- Cactus Jack (1993), who had one identity—and could barely remember that
- The Lightning Kid (1995) about his planned assault on the light heavyweight division
- Steve Austin (1996), who still was the best wrestler never to have won a world title

Plus ... Paul Jones•Larry Zbyszko•Bob Backlund•Barry Windham•Jerry Lawler•Rick Steamboat•Paul E. Dangerously•Owen Hart•Curt Hennig•Randy Savage•Terry Funk

BONUS! 32 FULL-COLOR PINUP PAGES!
100 PAGES FOR WRESTLING MAGAZINE COLLECTORS!

To avoid being shut out at the newsstand, use the handy form below to order by mail.

Please send me ___ copies of the PWI INTERVIEW SPECIAL(Volume 2). I am enclosing $____ ($7 per copy, postage and handling included) as payment in full.

Please send check or money order only to:
London Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 910
Ft. Washington, PA 19034

Print your name and address clearly

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

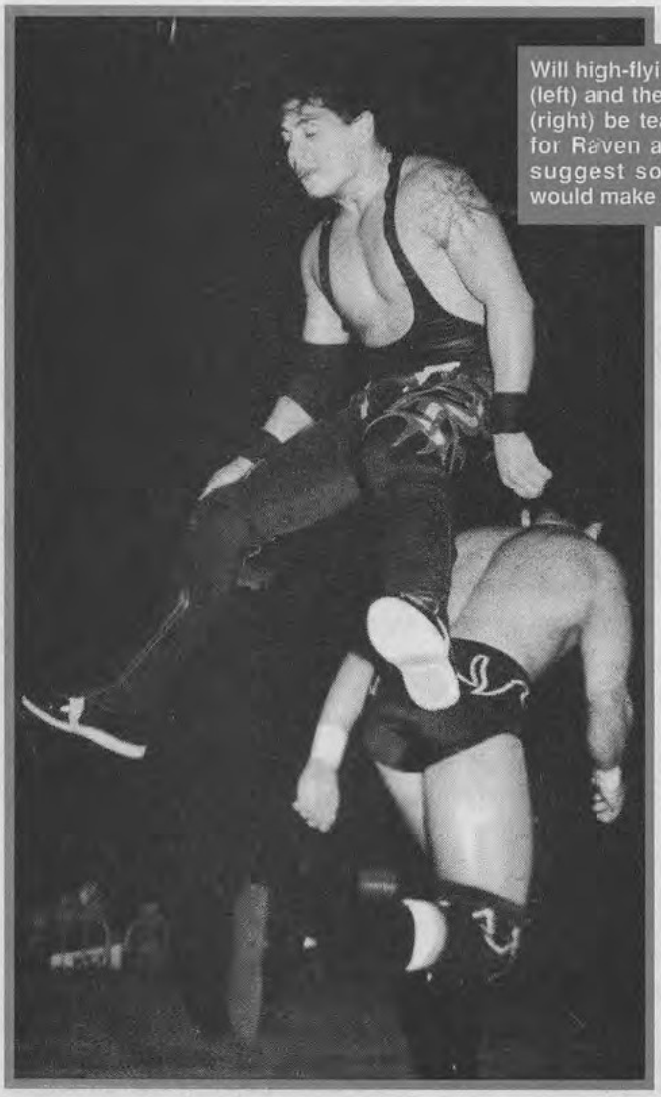
CITY_____ STATE_____ ZIP_____

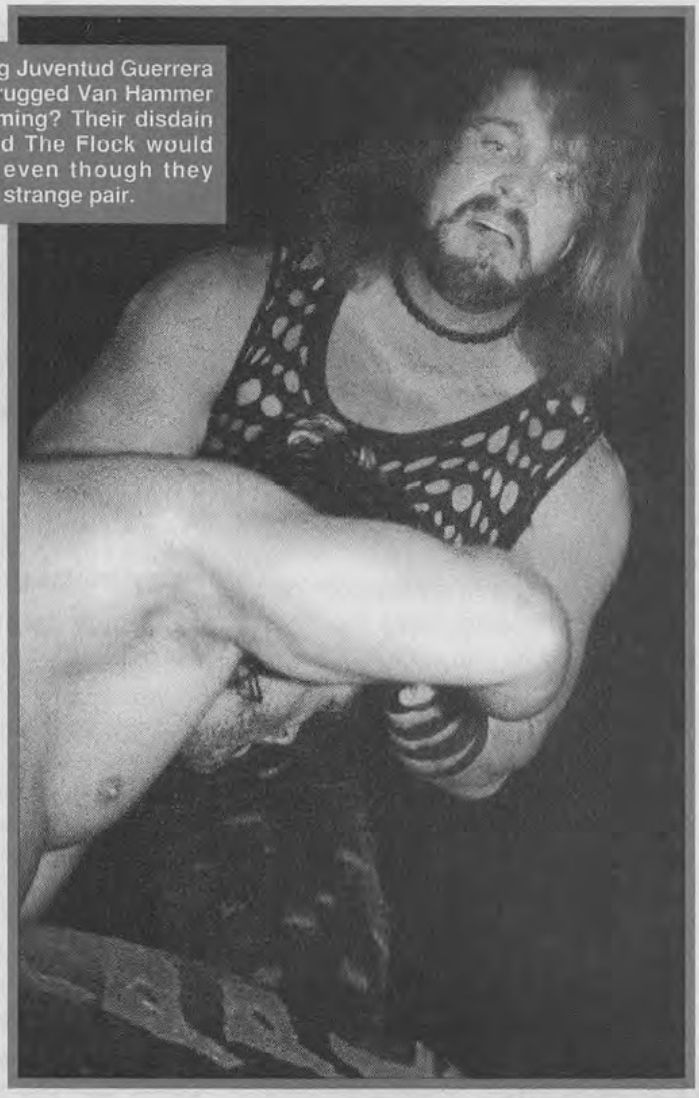
For all orders outside the U.S. and Canada, you must add $1 for every copy to be delivered by surface mail or $2 for every copy to be delivered by airmail. International money orders in U.S. funds only. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

4736/06-98

RINGTHEBELL on Archive.org

(Continued from page 6)





Will high-flying Juventud Guerrera (left) and the rugged Van Hammer (right) be teaming? Their disdain for Raven and The Flock would suggest so, even though they would make a strange pair.

favor by shielding Guerrera from several attacks.

"Hey, the little guy stuck his neck out for me, man," Hammer said. "It's only right that I do the same for him."

Said Juvi: "You need eyes in the back of your head when you wrestle somebody in The Flock. Hammer has helped me out. I felt like I owed him one."

For the time being, both wrestlers remain uncertain about wrestling as a team in the future.

"I got the size and strength, and he's got the speed and agility," Hammer mused. "But I don't know if our attitudes would click. I'm pretty rough in there. Guerrera's a textbook wrestler."

Juvi was equally apprehensive. "We compete in two separate weight classes, I don't know if us teaming together could lead to very much."

Given the state of tag team wrestling in WCW these days, anything is possible.

* * *

With so many of their hardcore heroes feeling the effects of extreme action, ECW fans have recently witnessed an influx of "new" talent. Joining the revolution are **Jamie Dundee**, **Jack Victory**, and **Mike Lozansky**, among others. Victory has aligned himself with the **Dudley** clan, while Dundee often accompanies Lozansky to the ring. ECW fans who attended the show at the ECW Arena in Philadelphia on June 6 were lambasted by several wrestlers, including Dundee, who called them all "damn Yankees." **Al Snow** called them "sick and demented," while **Buh Buh Ray Dudley** questioned the virility of the males in attendance after hurling sexist slurs at the females ... **Mahoney**, one of the few wrestlers who didn't rip the fans that night, must have a lot of enemies in the Philly area. Mahoney, who was attacked by fans in suburban Philly last fall, was hit with a chair by a rabid fan as he tried to break up a brawl between **Taz** and **Bam Bam Bigelow** ... Two title changes to report in Pennsylvania

New PCW tag team champs Inferno Kid (left) and Mike Quackenbush hold up the PCW six-man tag team trophy, a title they share with Boogie Woogie Brown.

Championship Wrestling: First, **Mike Quackenbush** and **The Inferno Kid** upended previous champs **Blue Thunder** and **J.R. Ryder**, as well as **The Nation of Immigration**, in a three-way match to win the tag team title on May 15 in Reading. They also currently hold the six-man title with Boogie Woogie Brown. On the same card, **"Superstar" Lance Diamond** defeated **Mr. Ooh La La** for the PCW Americas title ... Southern Championship Wrestling has been renamed Southern Carolina Wrestling ... Due to his contractual obligations to ECW, ACW heavyweight champ **Super Nova** has surrendered his title ... **Rex King** and **Steven Dunn** won the vacant Music City tag team title on May 30 in Nashville. They defeated **Shane Eden** and **Chris Michaels** ... The on-again, off-again—but mostly on-again—feud between **George South** and **The Italian Stallion** continues in the Pro Wrestling Federation. In the latest chapter, South defeated Stallion for the heavyweight title on May 29. □

BACK ISSUES

WRESTLING SUPERSTARS

ONLY $5 EACH!

Complete your collection today! Color action galleries, incredible dream matches, and incisive special sections make these back issues must-have additions to your wrestling collection!

JULY/77
Sammartino, Wrestling II, Andre; **Dream Match:** Terry Funk vs. Dory Funk Jr.

DECEMBER/77
Bravo, Sammartino, Graham-Race, Andre, Stevens.

FALL/80
Rhodes, Rich, Sammartino, Mascaras, Grahams.

FALL/81 Section:
Tomorrow's Superstars; Sammartino, Steamboat, Freebirds.

FALL/82 Section:
Sexiest Superstar; Albano's teams, Hernandez, Mascaras-Sheik.

WINTER/82 Section:
Greatest Card Ever; managers, Valentine, Funk, Rhodes.

SPRING/83 Section:
Personal Questions; Snuka, Mascaras, Chicago supercard.

SUMMER/83 Section:
Bob Backlund; Lawler, Gagne, Sheik, Mascaras, then and now.

FALL/83 Section:
WCW Stars; Steve O, Studd, Bruiser.

SPRING/84 Section:
Secret Fears; **Color Action Gallery:** Tommy Rich.

FALL/84 Section:
Personal Questions; **Color Action Gallery:** Andre the Giant.

WINTER/84 Section:
Sexiest Superstar; **Color Action Gallery:** Billy Jack Haynes.

WINTER/85 Section:
Dream Tag Teams; **Color Action Gallery:** Kevin Von Erich.

WINTER/86 Section:
Sexiest Superstar; **Dream Match:** Flair vs. Hogan; **Color Action Gallery:** Rick Morton.

FALL/87 Section:
Men Wrestlers Fear Most; **Dream Match:** Hawk & Animal vs. Zenk & Martel; **Color Action Gallery:** Rick Steamboat.

WINTER/87 Section:
Top 20 Tag Teams; **Dream Match:** Luger vs. Savage; **Color Action Gallery:** Great American Bash.

SPRING/88 Section:
Don't Trust These Men! **Dream Match:** Sammartino vs. Hogan; **Color Action Gallery:** Randy Savage.

WINTER/88 Section:
Sexiest Superstar; **Dream Match:** Flair vs. Savage; **Color Action Gallery:** Rick Rude.

WINTER/89 Section:
Top 20 Stars; **Dream Match:** Elizabeth vs. Sherri; **Color Action Gallery:** Blanchard & Anderson.

SUMMER/90 Section:
Greatest Finishing Maneuvers; **Dream Match:** Hogan vs. Luger; **Color Action Gallery:** Hulk Hogan.

AUGUST/90 Section:
Don't Trust These Men! **Dream Match:** Ultimate Warrior vs. Flair; **Color Action Gallery:** Norman.

OCTOBER/90 Section:
50 Strongest Wrestlers; **Dream Match:** Tag Team Extravaganza; **Color Action Gallery:** Steve Williams.

DECEMBER/90 Section:
Sexiest Superstars; **Dream Match:** Hennig-Rude; **Color Action Gallery:** Missy Hyatt.

FEBRUARY/91 Section:
Wrestling's Next Champions; **Dream Match:** Sting vs. Luger; **Color Action Gallery:** Legion of Doom.

APRIL/91 Section:
Teams We'd Like To See; **Dream Match:** Hogan vs. Ultimate Warrior; **Color Action Gallery:** Sid Vicious.

JUNE/91 Section:
Wrestling's Best; **Dream Match:** Strongest Man Competition; **Color Action Gallery:** Ric Flair

AUGUST/91 Section:
Top 20 Stars; **Dream Match:** LOD vs. Steiners; **Color Action Gallery:** Curt Hennig.

OCTOBER/91 Section:
These Men Must Be Banned!; **Dream Match:** Andre-Gigante; **Color Action Gallery:** The Undertaker.

DECEMBER/91 Section:
Top 20 Tag Teams; **Dream Match:** Battle Royal of Champions; **Color Action Gallery:** Steiners.

FEBRUARY/92 Section:
Wrestlers To Make '92 Sizzle; **Dream Match:** Bret Hart vs. Sting; **Color Action Gallery:** Cactus Jack.

APRIL/92 Section:
Little-Known Facts; **Dream Match:** Hogan vs. Justice; **Color Action Gallery:** Johnny B. Badd.

JUNE/92 Section:
Dangerous Matches; **Dream Match:** Ultimate Dream Supercard; **Color Action Gallery:** Dangerous Matches.

AUGUST/92 Section:
Greatest WrestleMania Matches; **Dream Match:** Kamala vs. Abdullah; Steiners, Sting-Cactus.

SEPTEMBER/92 Section:
Most Complete Wrestlers; **Dream Match:** IRS vs. Windham; Shango, Owen, Steamboat vs. Rude.

OCTOBER/92 Section:
Overrated/Underrated; **Dream Match:** Michaels vs. Jannetty; Money Inc., Olympic wrestlers.

DECEMBER/92 Section:
21st Century Stars; **Dream Match:** R. Steiner & Williams vs. S. Steiner & Gordy; Money Inc., Jarrett.

JANUARY/93 Section:
Great Arenas; **Dream Match:** Halloween Horrors Battle Royal; Steamboat-Austin, Undertaker-Flair, Pillman.

MARCH/93 Section:
Hot '93 Wrestlers; **Dream Match:** Hart vs. Simmons; Steamboat-Pillman, Tyson to wrestle.

APRIL/93 Section:
Tag Team We'd Like To See; **Dream Match:** Dusty & Dustin vs. Bill & Erik Watts; Badd, Vader.

JUNE/93 Section:
Wrestling's Best; **Dream Match:** Vader vs. Yokozuna; Missy & Flair, Windham, Cactus & Orndorff.

AUGUST/93 Section:
Top 20 Stars; **Dream Match:** Rude vs. Madusa; Duggan, Gilbert, Watts, Wippleman.

OCTOBER/93 Section:
These Men Must Be Banned! **Dream Match:** Hogan & Beefcake vs. Sting & Davey Boy; Michaels, Rhodes.

DECEMBER/93 Section:
Top 20 Tag Teams; **Dream Match:** Lex Luger's challenge; Michaels, Hawk, Adams, Eaton & Benoit.

SPRING/94 Section:
10 Stars To Make '94 Sizzle; **Dream Match:** Cactus vs. Doink; Sting, Steiners, Sabu.

SUMMER/94 Section:
10 Stars Who Are An Embarrassment; **Dream Match:** Bret vs. Sting; Hogan, Dustin, Vader & Race.

FALL/94 Section:
10 Fan Favorites You Should Be Ashamed To Cheer; **Dream Match:** Vader & Bigelow vs. Yokozuna & Earthquake.

WINTER/94 Section:
Turnbuckle Turkey Awards! **Dream Match:** Hogan vs. Hart vs. Vader; Lawler, Flair, Douglas.

SPRING/95 Section:
Personal Questions; **Dream Match:** All-time NWA title tourney; Simmons, Hogan, Cornette, Backlund.

SUMMER/95 Section:
Top 20 Stars; **Dream Match:** All-time WWF title tourney; DiBiase, Steiners, Inoki-Sting.

FALL/95 Section:
Top 20 tag teams; **Dream Match:** Hogan vs. Flair; LT, Sid, Sandman, Lawler, Hogan.

WINTER/95 Section:
Superstars Of Tomorrow; **Dream Match:** Undertaker vs. Vader; Diesel-Ramon, Jarrett, Wright, Michaels.

SPRING/96 Section:
Report cards; **Dream Match:** Wrestling's Dream World; Diesel, Gibson, Luger-Hogan, Ramon-Kid, Mexicans.

SPRING/97 Section:
Top 20 Stars; **Dream Match:** Hall & Nash vs. New Diesel & New Razor; Hogan-Piper, Jarrett, Yoko, Ahmed.

SUMMER/97 Section:
Top 20 Tag Teams: **Dream Match:** Piper vs. Austin; NWO, HOD, Michaels, Liger.

☐ JULY/77	☐ FALL/84	☐ AUGUST/90	☐ APRIL/92	☐ AUGUST/93
☐ DECEMBER/77	☐ WINTER/84	☐ OCTOBER/90	☐ JUNE/92	☐ OCTOBER/93
☐ FALL/80	☐ WINTER/85	☐ DECEMBER/90	☐ AUGUST/92	☐ DECEMBER/93
☐ FALL/81	☐ WINTER/86	☐ FEBRUARY/91	☐ SEPTEMBER/92	☐ SPRING/94
☐ FALL/82	☐ FALL/87	☐ APRIL/91	☐ OCTOBER/92	☐ SUMMER/94
☐ WINTER/82	☐ WINTER/87	☐ JUNE/91	☐ DECEMBER/92	☐ FALL/94
☐ SPRING/83	☐ SPRING/88	☐ AUGUST/91	☐ JANUARY/93	☐ WINTER/94
☐ SUMMER/83	☐ WINTER/88	☐ OCTOBER/91	☐ MARCH/93	☐ SPRING/95
☐ FALL/83	☐ WINTER/89	☐ DECEMBER/91	☐ APRIL/93	☐ SUMMER/95
☐ SPRING/84	☐ SUMMER/90	☐ FEBRUARY/92	☐ JUNE/93	☐ FALL/95
				☐ WINTER/95
				☐ SPRING/96
				☐ SPRING/97
				☐ SUMMER/97

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE AND MAIL TO:
LONDON PUBLISHING CO., BOX 910
FT. WASHINGTON, PA 19034

ONLY $5 EACH!

Please send me the back issues of WRESTLING SUPERSTARS I've checked. I enclose $_____ as payment in full.
In case of sellout, indicate a substitute choice:_____
PRINT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS CLEARLY:

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

CITY_____ STATE_____ ZIP_____

For all orders except the U.S. you must add $1.50 for every back issue ordered for boat mail, and $3.00 for every back issue ordered for airmail. Int'l money order in U.S. funds only. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

4525/05-97

GINGTHEBELLZ on Archive.org

THE NWA CHAMPIONS

(Continued from page 11)

8. PAT O'CONNOR (1959-61)

A man of Irish descent, he epitomized the term "working man's champ." He sported two large cauliflowered ears and could slug it out when necessary. He later became an NWA promoter in St. Louis and Kansas City, Missouri. O'Connor died in 1991 at age 65.

9. TERRY FUNK (1975-77)

The war between the Funks and Briscos was at its peak when Terry Funk, substituting for brother Dory, defeated Jack Brisco for the title in 1975. Terry was often called Dory's "evil twin" for his rulebreaking tactics. His slugfests with Dusty Rhodes were a far cry from the Thesz-Eduardo Carpentier bouts of old.

10. JACK BRISCO (1973-75, 2 reigns)

He won the NCAA wrestling title in the 191-pound class just before turning pro in 1965. Brisco was appreciated for his scientific approach in every part of the country—except west Texas. That's where he was dragged into brawls with the Funks.

11. DUSTY RHODES (1979-86, 3 reigns)

"The American Dream" seemed to be the man everyone wanted as champion, but he didn't have much staying power once he got there.

12. DAN SEVERN (1995-present)

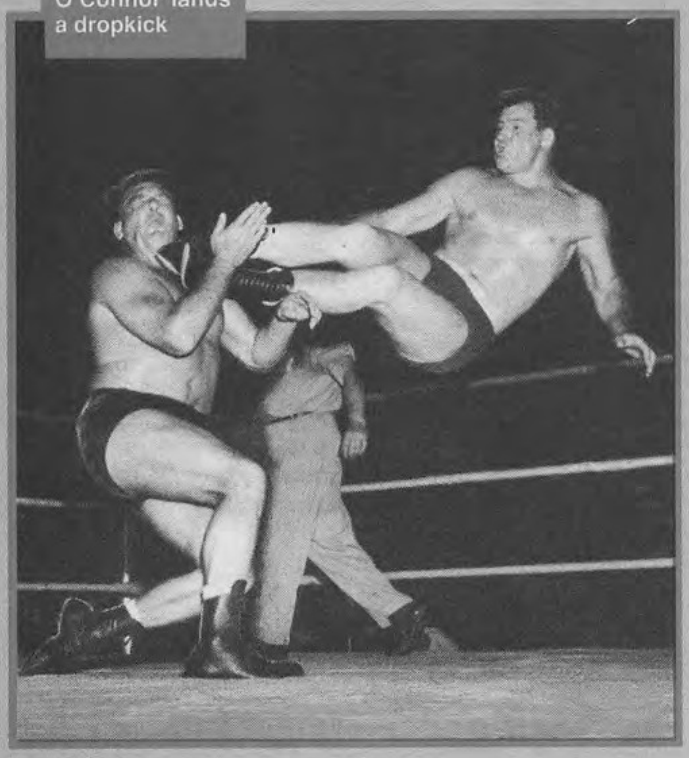
The former UFC champion might be remembered as the longest-reigning champion never to win a world title—unless the NWA belt regains that status soon. Sorry, it's unlikely.

13. BILLY "WHIPPER" WATSON (1956)

Deemed a boyhood favorite by Dan Aykroyd and John Goodman in a recent interview, the "Whipper" was best known for his intense rivalries with Lou Thesz and Gene Kiniski.

14. RICK STEAMBOAT (1989)

After placing second to Ric Flair for more than a decade, Steamboat finally gained revenge by defeating him for the title in Chicago. He lost it back two months later.



O'Connor lands a dropkick

Brisco was as good in the pros as he was in college

15. STING (1990-91)

Many mistakenly thought Flair was finished when Sting beat him at the Baltimore Arena. None of Sting's WCW title reigns has matched his first stint as NWA champ.

16. KERRY VON ERICH (1984)

The Texas sun shined on Kerry when he defeated Ric Flair at the first annual David Von Erich Memorial Parade of Champions in front of 44,000 fans, a record-breaking attendance. David Von Erich was Flair's original opponent, but he had died three months before the match. Kerry dedicated his win to his brother.

17. MASA CHONO (1992-93)

He has the distinction of being the longest-reigning Japanese titleholder. Although he won the belt in Tokyo, he didn't enjoy world title status.

18. ORVILLE BROWN (1948-49)

The NWA's first champion is probably the least known. He forfeited the title to Lou Thesz due to injuries sustained in an automobile accident.

19. SHOHEI BABA (1974-1980, 3 reigns)

He could be called the "lightning-strike champ." Baba shocked Jack Brisco for the title once and Harley Race twice, but each reign ended in a snap.

20. BARRY WINDHAM (1993)

He claimed to be living his childhood dream back when he held the NWA title. Ric Flair woke him up.

21. THE GREAT MUTA (1993)

Muta, against his will, ended the NWA title's Oriental exile when he lost the belt to Barry Windham in Biloxi, Mississippi.

22. CHRIS CANDIDO (1994-95)

He resuscitated the title at a crucial juncture. Candido won the belt when the NWA's New Jersey branch hosted a tournament after a year-long vacancy.

23. TOMMY RICH (1981)

His five-day reign has come to symbolize "flash-in-the-pan" success in wrestling. Some have held the belt for shorter periods, but they had other reigns to their credit.

24. RONNIE GARVIN (1987)

After he beat Ric Flair, Garvin wasn't required to wrestle again until their rematch nearly two months later—far beyond the established 30-day rule. At least he won it, though. □

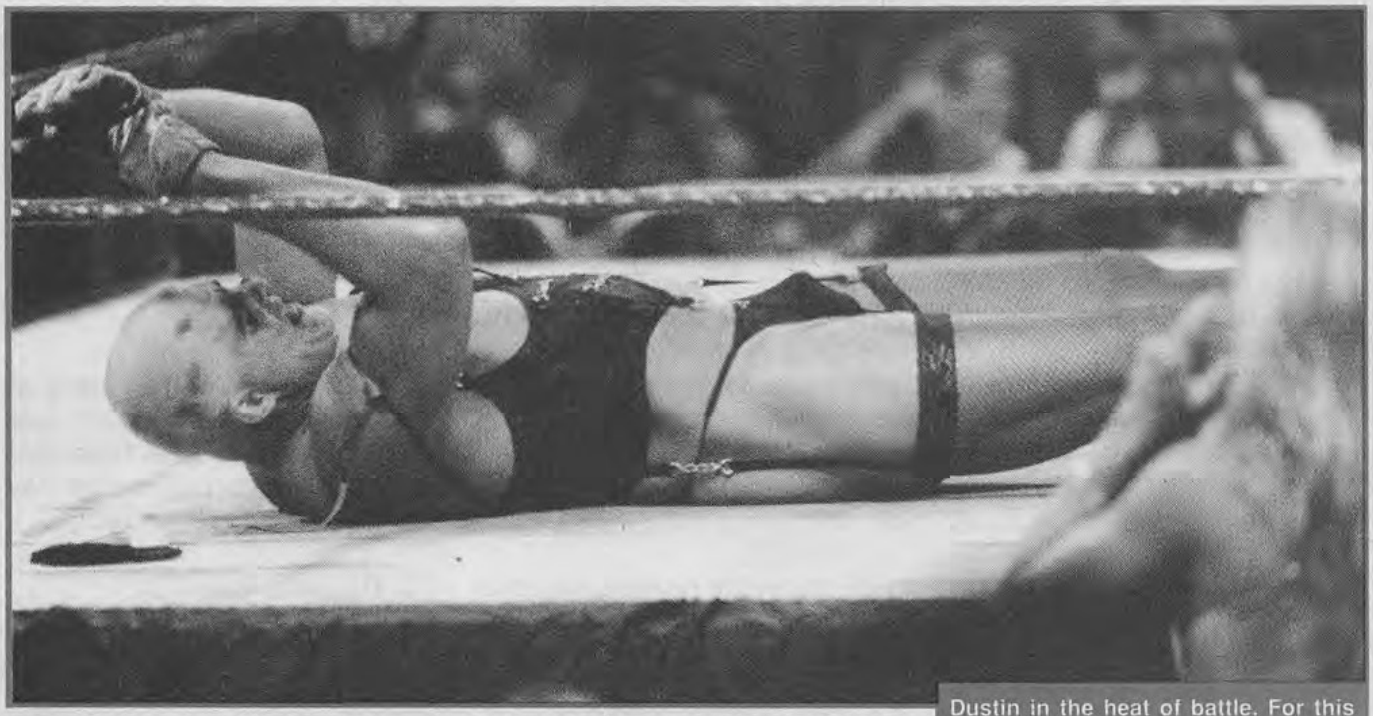
Steamboat didn't get to do this for long

Watson gave Kiniski his best shots

Garvin made unwise decisions after winning the belt

GOLDUST

(Continued from page 41)



Dustin in the heat of battle. For this second-generation star, it's time to get back to the basics of the sport. But will he able to continue do so for long in Vince McMahon's WWF?

That puts the WWF owner in a precarious position of weakness.

The upshot is a fiery standoff between two very stubborn people ... and a whole lot of fun for the WWF fans. Who *doesn't* want to see McMahon knocked off his lofty perch, after all?

So how does this affect Goldust/Runnels?

Runnels may be the scapegoat McMahon is looking for, someone whose demise will send a message to Austin: *This is what happens to someone who steps out of line. If you want to see others lose their jobs because of you, keep it up, hot shot!*

By protesting McMahon and refusing to be the ring persona first encouraged and then re-enforced by McMahon, Runnels stands in direct violation of company policy. Other wrestlers have seen their match time decreased for far less flagrant transgressions; this could be curtains for Dustin.

"If Vince were to fire Dustin, I believe that would really make Steve Austin think twice about his behavior," added Ross. "Thus far, Steve has seen that he can push Vince to the wall and get away with it. Then again, Vince has not had a situation where he could use someone to set an example."

Something has to happen here; McMahon is not about to simply let Runnels off the hook. But further rumors indicate that Austin may take care of the situation himself.

"As is usual with McMahon and Austin, I hear Austin wants to make the first move," says one WWF insider. "He'd rather dispose of Dustin the way Dustin disposed of his uniform than sit back and wait for McMahon to make an example of him."

And that means bad news for both Dustin and McMahon: a violent feud for one, and a federation for the other in which Austin stands stronger than ever.

To think it all began with a tube of gold makeup. □

$ MAKE BIG MONEY IN PRO WRESTLING $

Whether you want to be in the wrestling spotlight or make money behind the scenes, this book was written for you!! Co-authored by wrestling superstars **KING KONG BUNDY** and **"PRETTY BOY" LARRY SHARPE, HITTIN' THE MAT** contains everything you need to know to prepare for a wrestling or non-wrestling career in this exciting business. **GUARANTEED!** Whether you want to make money in the wrestling industry or just enjoy watching, this book is a must! Act now and receive the following **FREE** bonuses:

1. Autographed, personalized picture of **KING KONG BUNDY** and **"PRETTY BOY" LARRY SHARPE.**

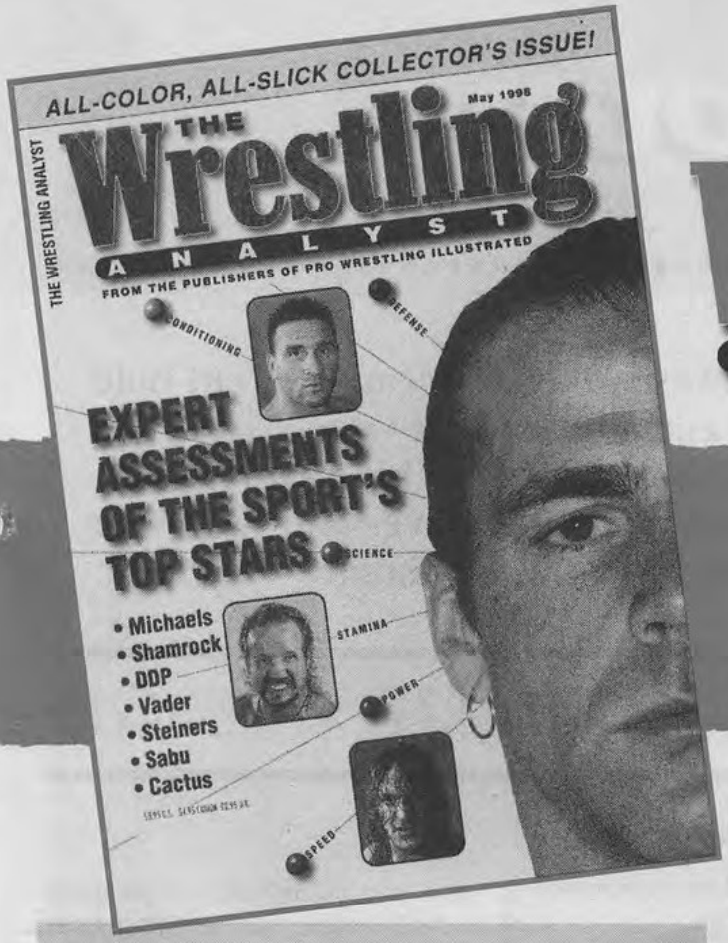
2. Informative guide describing dozens of non-wrestling positions.

3. Money-saving coupons for wrestling publications, training, equipment, memorabilia and more.

Only $12.95 + $2 S/H
(Add $5 outside U.S.)

DON'T WAIT! ORDER TODAY!

Send to:
HITTIN' THE MAT
704 BROADWAY, #188D
MANTUA, NJ 08051



IF YOU DON'T SUBSCRIBE TO THE Wrestling ANALYST

YOU NEED ANALYSIS!

If you have been searching for a wrestling magazine that is jammed with action-packed, full-color photos, insightful writing, and is printed on ultra-high quality paper … your search has ended!

Introducing THE WRESTLING ANALYST, the newest magazine from London Publishing Co.—the same folks that publish PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED. Published six times a year, THE WRESTLING ANALYST is the only all-slick, all-color wrestling magazine that covers the hottest stars from *ALL* the federations.

In each issue, eight of wrestling's biggest stars are thoroughly evaluated. For each wrestler, you get an in-depth analysis covering 20 different categories, including offense, defense, experience, conditioning, stamina, power, ability to absorb punishment, and much, much more.

Subscribe today and receive 15% off the cover price when you sign up for six issues. Subscribe for 12 issues and save even more—20% off the cover price.

SEND TO:
London Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 2021, Dept. 9
Marion, OH 43302

☑ Yes, I would like to subscribe to **THE WRESTLING ANALYST**! I have enclosed a check or money order made payable to London Publishing Co. or provided my credit card information to charge my subscription.

☐ I have enclosed $20.14 for a 6-issue subscription (a 15% savings)

☐ I have enclosed $37.92 for a 12-issue subscription (a 20% savings)

Name _____

Address _____ Apt.# _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

RINGTHEBELL2 on Archive.org

☐ *Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)*

☐ *VISA #* _____

☐ *MasterCard* _____

Expiration Date: ____/____
MO/YR

Signature: _____

Above prices apply in U.S. only. Canada and all foreign countries $24.94 for 6 issues ($35.14 airmail), $47.52 for 12 issues ($67.92 airmail). For orders outside the U.S., pay by international money order in U.S. funds only. Please allow up to eight weeks before you receive your first issue.

4673/01-98/2c

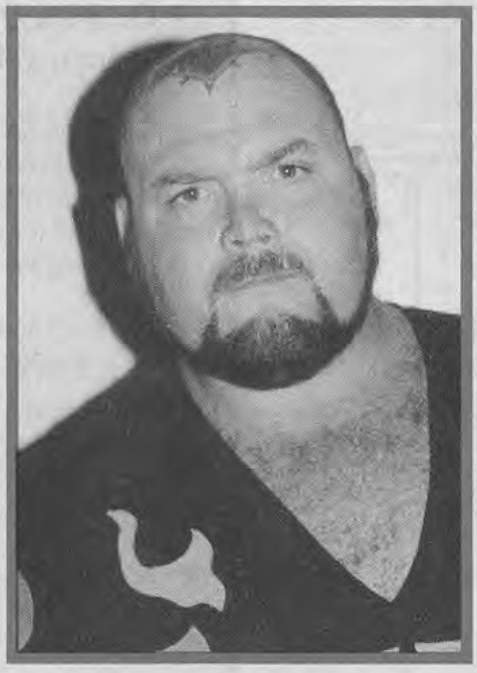
KNOW YOUR HOLDS

Every issue, WRESTLING SUPERSTARS will examine a different hold or maneuver, analyzing its effectiveness in the best way possible–by allowing the wrestler who uses it to explain it in his own words. These are potentially dangerous and crippling moves and should be left to the pro rings: Don't try these at home!

GREETINGS FROM ASBURY PARK

By Bam Bam Bigelow

I'M PROBABLY MAKING a big mistake by blabbing my secrets to this rag, but since nobody else can pull this move off with the same crushing impact that I can, I guess I got nothing to lose. In fact, I defy anyone to tell me who does it better!



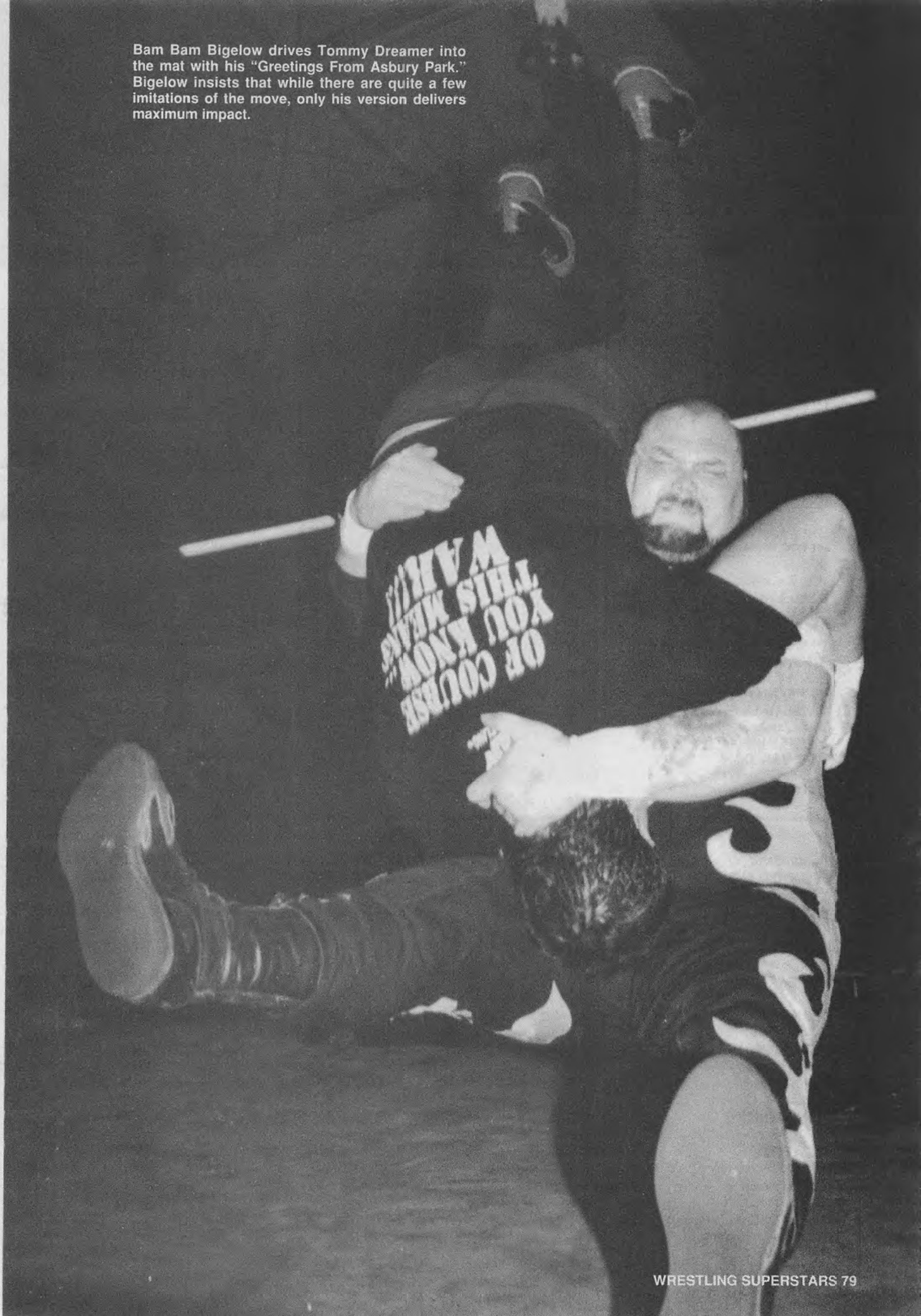
What maneuver hurts more than my "Greetings From Asbury Park"? Al Snow's "Snowplow"? Nah. Taka What's-hisface's "Driver"? Not even close. Those two chumps stole my move anyway. Theirs might look the same as mine, but "Greetings" is done differently. That's why the results are totally different. Ask anybody who's been unlucky enough to feel all three and they'll tell you that "Greetings" hurts the most.

Now I don't know how those clowns set up their finishers, but my approach to setting up "Greetings" is pretty simple: Beat the tar out of the guy until he's too weak to resist. And that's why ECW is the perfect home for me. I can swing a chair or use the ring steps to weaken my opponent without having some damn referee crawling all over me. Still, I'd rather use my fists.

Anyhow, it doesn't matter how I beat my opponent into submission. The point is that I want him hanging over my shoulder like a sack of wet manure—facing head-down, chest-on-chest—before I slam him into oblivion.

And that's where things gets a little tricky. Here, I have to be a wrestler—not just a butt-kicking machine—because doing the slam right involves perfect timing. At this point, I gotta leave my feet, turn clockwise, and drive my opponent's head and shoulders into the mat—all at the same time—without losing control of him. Easier said than done. But the fact that I hold my opponent on my shoulder allows me to control the slam on the way down. Those other nitwits hold the guy in a suplex position and let gravity do the job. I have more faith in my own 370 pounds of sheer power. Fact is, those guys are probably just too weak to do it right, and it shows. And *that's* why "Greetings From Asbury Park" is most lethal finishing move in pro wrestling.

But in reality, "Greetings From Asbury Park" is like icing on the cake, because you're going to get beaten within an inch of your life whether I use the move or not. See, I don't rely on "Greetings" to win matches. I just do it for fun.



Bam Bam Bigelow drives Tommy Dreamer into the mat with his "Greetings From Asbury Park." Bigelow insists that while there are quite a few imitations of the move, only his version delivers maximum impact.

WRESTLING SUPERSTARS®

TOP 10

1 **STEVE AUSTIN**
252, Victoria, TX
(1) WWF World champion

2 **BILL GOLDBERG**
270, Tulsa, OK
(2) U.S. heavyweight champion

3 **KENTA KOBASHI**
261, Fukuchiyama, Japan
(-) All-Japan Triple Crown champion

4 **HUNTER HEARST HELMSLEY**
279, Greenwich, CT
(8) WWF European champion

5 **BOOKER T**
250, Harlem, NY
(4) WCW TV champion

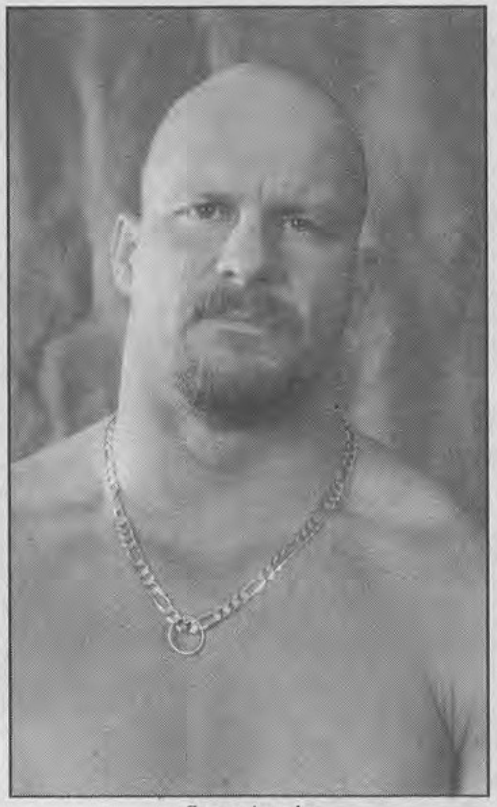
6 **STING**
260, Venice Beach, CA
(5) No. 3 contender: WCW World title

7 **THE UNDERTAKER**
328, parts unknown
(7) No. 4 contender: WWF World title

8 **ROCKY MAIVIA**
272, Pearl City, HI
(6) WWF Intercontinental champion

9 **TATSUMI FUJINAMI**
234, Oita, Japan
(-) IWGP heavyweight champion

10 **ROB VAN DAM**
237, Battle Creek, MI
(10) ECW TV champion



Steve Austin

TAG TEAMS

1 **BILLY GUNN & JESSE JAMES**
Combined weight: 496 pounds
(1) WWF World tag team champions

2 **KEVIN NASH & STING**
Combined weight: 616 pounds
(-) WCW World tag team champions

3 **KANE & MANKIND**
Combined weight: 622 pounds
(-) No. 1 contenders: WWF World tag title

4 **HARLEM HEAT**
Combined weight: 550 pounds
(-) No. 1 contenders: WCW World tag title

5 **MASA CHONO & HIROYOSHI TENZAN**
Combined weight: 505 pounds
(-) IWGP tag team champions

6 **LOD 2000**
Combined weight: 560 pounds
(2) No. 2 contenders: WWF World tag title

7 **BRET HART & HOLLYWOOD HOGAN**
Combined weight: 510 pounds
(-) No. 2 contenders: WCW World tag title

8 **STEVE AUSTIN & THE UNDERTAKER**
Combined weight: 580 pounds
(-) No. 3 contenders: WWF World tag title

9 **SABU & ROB VAN DAM**
Combined weight: 447 pounds
(10) No. 1 contenders: ECW tag title

10 **THE HEADBANGERS**
Combined weight: 488 pounds
(5) No. 4 contenders: WWF World tag title

WCW

World Champion:
HOLLYWOOD HOGAN
(C) 275, Venice Beach, CA

1—BILL GOLDBERG
(1) 270, Tulsa, OK
2—BOOKER T
(2) 250, Harlem, NY
3—STING
(5) 260, Venice Beach, CA
4—DEAN MALENKO
(-) 216, Tampa, FL
5—CHRIS BENOIT
(10) 218, Edmonton, Alberta
6—THE GIANT
(-) 430, parts unknown
7—CHRIS JERICHO
(3) 225, Vancouver, British Columbia
8—LEX LUGER
(7) 265, Chicago, IL
9—KEVIN NASH
(-) 356, Detroit, MI
10—DAVID FINLAY
(-) 243, Belfast, Ireland

WWF

World Champion:
STEVE AUSTIN
(C) 252, Victoria, TX

1—ROCKY MAIVIA
(1) 272, Pearl City, HI
2—HUNTER HEARST HELMSLEY
(2) 279, Greenwich, CT
3—KEN SHAMROCK
(4) 235, San Bernardino, CA
4—THE UNDERTAKER
(3) 328, parts unknown
5—FAAROOQ
(6) 291, Perry, GA
6—KANE
(5) 345, parts unknown
7—OWEN HART
(10) 227, Calgary, Alberta
8—JEFF JARRETT
(-) 230, Nashville, TN
9—STEVE BLACKMAN
(9) 245, Annville, PA
10—VADER
(-) 450, Denver, CO

ECW

ECW Champion:
SHANE DOUGLAS
(C) 240, Pittsburgh, PA

1—ROB VAN DAM
(1) 237, Battle Creek, MI
2—TAZ
(-) 248, Red Hook, NY
3—SABU
(7) 225, Bombay
4—AXL ROTTEN
(5) 302, Philadelphia, PA
5—AL SNOW
(3) 232, Lima, OH
6—THE SANDMAN
(-) 244, Philadelphia, PA
7—BAM BAM BIGELOW
(2) 368, Mt. Laurel, NJ
8—JERRY LYNN
(-) 214, Minneapolis, MN
9—CHRIS CANDIDO
(10) 226, Carteret, NJ
10—TOMMY DREAMER
(8) 245, Yonkers, NY

NWA

NWA Champion:
DAN SEVERN
(C) 265, Detroit, MI

1—BARRY WINDHAM
(1) 273, Sweetwater, TX
2—COLORADO KID
(4) 231, Denver, CO
3—KING KONG BUNDY
(-) 446, Atlantic City, NJ
4—ROD PRICE
(-) 265, Los Angeles, CA
5—MR. GILLIS
(-) 221, Vancouver, British Columbia
6—DOUG GILBERT
(2) 241, Lexington, TN
7—DORY FUNK JR.
(-) 250, Amarillo, TX
8—SID VICIOUS
(3) 318, West Memphis, AR
9—RIP ROGERS
(6) 239, Cleveland, OH
10—PAUL ATLAS
(-) 215, N. Versailles, PA

OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue. while (C) indicates the wrestler was champion in that category last issue.

For period ended June 19, 1998

AAA: Champion—Perro Aguayo; **1**—Abismo Negro; **2**—Octagon; **3**—Pentagon; **4**—Heavy Metal; **5**—Fuerza Guerrera; **6**—Cibernetico; **7**—Sangre Chicana; **8**—Perro Aguayo Jr.; **9**—El Corbade Jr.; **10**—Latin Lover.

ALL-PRO WRESTLING: Champion—Maxx Justice; **1**—Donovan Morgan; **2**—Moondog Moretti; **3**—Vic Grimes; **4**—Vinny Massaro; **5**—Robert Thompson; **6**—Michael Modest; **7**—Erin O'Grady; **8**—Boom Boom Comini; **9**—Tony Jones; **10**—Frank Murdoch.

EAST COAST WRESTLING ASSOCIATION: Champion—Glen Osbourne; **1**—Reckless Youth; **2**—Lance Diamond; **3**—Inferno Kid; **4**—Devon Storm; **5**—Ace Darling; **6**—Mike Quackenbush; **7**—Boogie Woogie Brown; **8**—Mr. Ooh La La; **9**—Mark Shrader; **10**—Persian Prince.

GRANDE WRESTLING ALLIANCE: Champion—George Steele; **1**—Bob Steele; **2**—Alexi Taktarov; **3**—Jake Lawless; **4**—Mandingo Warrior; **5**—King Kong Bundy; **6**—Jason Lives; **7**—Ron Starr; **8**—Koko B. Ware; **9**—Middknight; **10**—Iron Sheik.

INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING: Champion—Willie T. Bumps; **1**—Otto Schwanz; **2**—Chuck Jones; **3**—Count Grog; **4**—Skinhead; **5**—Frank Parker; **6**—Jimi Love; **7**—The Brute; **8**—Tears; **9**—Ric Kelly; **10**—The All-American.

MID-SOUTH PROMOTIONS: Champion—Kevin Northcutt; **1**—Mr. Wrestling III; **2**—Rod Price; **3**—Elijah Levay; **4**—Guido Buttafuco; **5**—Crazy Joe; **6**—Kerry Rockwood; **7**—Paul Edwards; **8**—Red Dog; **9**—Stan Sweetan; **10**—Lord Zoltan.

NWA EAST: Champion—Headshrinker Samu; **1**—Quinn Magnum; **2**—Gator; **3**—T. Rantula; **4**—J.B. Destiny; **5**—Paul Atlas; **6**—Brian Anthony; **7**—Bubba the Bulldog;**8**—Brandon K.; **9**—Sean Evans; **10**—Lord Zoltan.

NWA NEW ENGLAND: Champion—Erich Sbraccia; **1**—Vic Steamboat; **2**—Tony Rumble; **3**—Knuckles Nelson; **4**—Tre; **5**—Curtis Slamdawgg; **6**—Jay Kobain; **7**—The Mercenary; **8**—King Kong Bundy; **9**—Trooper Gilmore; **10**—Dungeon Master.

PENNSYLVANIA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING: Champion—Tiger Khan; **1**—Mr. Ooh La La; **2**—Julio Sanchez; **3**—Reckless Youth; **4**—Lance Diamond; **5**—Mike Quackenbush; **6**—Sexton Hardcastle; **7**—Boogie Woogie Brown; **8**—Christian Cage; **9**—Dave Patera; **10**—Glen Osbourne.

POWER PRO WRESTLING: Champion—Title Vacant; **1**—Jerry Lawler; **2**—Brian Christopher; **3**—Bill Dundee; **4**—Kid Wikkid; **5**—Tracey Smothers; **6**—Billy Travis; **7**—Spellbinder; **8**—Moondog Spot; **9**—Koko B. Ware; **10**—B.J. Awesome.

PRO WRESTLING FEDERATION: Champion—George South; **1**—Italian Stallion; **2**—Black Angel; **3**—Ripper; **4**—The Breeze; **5**—The Bodyguard; **6**—Scotty Hotbody; **7**—Scott Powers; **8**—Super Ninja; **9**—American G.I.; **10**—Flaming Youth.

PRO WRESTLING INTERNATIONAL: Champion—Mad Dog Johnson; **1**—Pete Lothario; **2**—Bobby Perez; **3**—Mr. Wrestling III; **4**—Rudy Boy; **5**—Juan Reynosa; **6**—Solomon Grundy; **7**—Kevin Northcutt; **8**—New Style; **9**—Tito Sanchez; **10**—Manny Villalobos.

NEW JAPAN

IWGP Champion:
TATSUMI FUJINAMI
(C) 234, Oita, Japan

1—SHINYA HASHIMOTO
(2) 287, Gifu, Japan
2—KENSUKE SASAKI
(1) 233, Tokyo, Japan
3—MASA CHONO
(4) 235, Tokyo, Japan
4—SHIRO KOSHINAKA
(-) 225, Tokyo, Japan
5—HIROYOSHI TENZAN
(6) 270, Tokyo, Japan
6—DON FRYE
(8) 235, Sierra Vista, AZ
7—KAZUO YAMAZAKI
(-) 182, Tokyo, Japan
8—JUSHIN LIGER
(5) 206, Hiroshima, Japan
9—BIG TITAN
(-) 352, Calgary, Alberta
10—EL SAMURAI
(-) 213, Tokyo, Japan

ALL-JAPAN

Triple Crown Champion:
KENTA KOBASHI
(3) 261, Fukuchiyama, Japan

1—TOSHIAKI KAWADA
(1) 245, Ashikaga, Japan
2—AKIRA TAUE
(5) 265, Chichibu, Japan
3—JUN AKIYAMA
(2) 230, Hiroshima, Japan
4—JOHNNY ACE
(7) 250, San Bernardino, CA
5—GARY ALBRIGHT
(8) 343, Billings, MT
6—WOLF HAWKFIELD
(-) 272, New Port Richey, FL
7—TAKAO OMORI
(9) 221, Tokyo, Japan
8—TAMON HONDA
(-) 191, Tokyo, Japan
9—MAUNUKEA MOSSMAN
(10) 245, Honolulu, HI
10—BOBBY DUNCUM JR.
(-) 275, Austin, TX

EMLL

EMLL Champion:
UNIVERSO 2000
(C) 215, parts unknown

1—ATLANTIS
(1) 180, Guadalajara, Mexico
2—EL HIJO DEL SANTO
(2) 180, Tulancingo, Mexico
3—RAYO DE JALISCO JR.
(3) 270, Guadalajara, Mexico
4—EMILIO CHALES JR.
(4) 222, Mexico City, Mexico
5—ULTIMO DRAGON
(5) 175, Mexico City, Mexico
6—NEGRO CASAS
(6) 175, Mexico City, Mexico
7—CIEN CARAS
(7) 235, Lagos de Moreno, Mexico
8—FELINO
(8) 165, Mexico City, Mexico
9—BLACK WARRIOR
(9) 221, Mexico City, Mexico
10—BLUE PANTHER
(10) 215, Mexico City, Mexico

PROMO AZTECA

Promo Azteca Champion:
KONNAN
(C) 237, Mexico City, Mexico

1—PIERROTH JR.
(1) 251, Cuernavaca, Mexico
2—PIRATA MORGAN
(6) 221, Mexico City, Mexico
3—TINIEBLAS JR.
(10) 256, Montclova, Mexico
4—BLACK MAGIC
(4) 238, London, England
5—SILVER KING
(7) 215, Mexico City, Mexico
6—LIZMARK JR.
(5) 249, Acapulco, Mexico
7—JUVENTUD GUERRERA
(3) 165, Mexico City, Mexico
8—TARZAN BOY
(2) 162, Monterey, Mexico
9—PSICOSIS
(-) 200, Tijuana, Mexico
10—EL DANDY
(-) 235, Jalisco, Mexico

RATINGS ANALYSIS

This column will tell fans how we go about rating over 200 wrestlers in 22 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important-and respected-ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans!

Have they made a difference? We thought the news for fans of tag team wrestling in the WWF in March was, for the most part, very good. As WCW continued to de-emphasize tag teams, **The New Age Outlaws** continued to improve and get more and more entertaining to watch, **The Disciples of Apocalypse** grew more confident, and **The Headbangers** got on a bit of a roll.

But perhaps most importantly, **Sunny** put an end to the bickering between **Hawk** and **Animal** and reunited them as **LOD 2000**, and **Jim Cornette** put together a new version of **The Midnight Express** that featured a rejuvenated **Bob Holly** and **Bart Gunn**. Those two showed some promise in their initial outings together. In mid-May, however, things weren't looking quite as good for either Sunny or Cornette.

Jim Cornette

Remember that Hawk and Animal became so frustrated by their inability to recapture the World tag team title in February that they went after each other. Well, shortly after WrestleMania, where LOD 2000 won a 15-team battle royal, we considered ranking them number one in our tag team ratings. They were looking *that* good. But they failed to unseat **Billy Gunn** and **Jesse James** as tag team champs at Unforgiven in April, and the best they've been able to do since is beat them by disqualification.

Lately they've been struggling in a feud with the DOA, and you know The New Age Outlaws hope that feud rages on for months and months to come. As a result of their struggles, we're keeping them below the Outlaws in the ratings. If WCW had a strong tag team division right now, LOD 2000 would probably be ranked even lower than where we have them here. Sunny apparently hasn't jump-started the career of the LOD the way everyone expected.

And what of this new Midnight Express? Holly and Gunn have yet to show that they are as good as previous versions of The Midnight Express. Cornette guided them to some impressive wins shortly after their formation, but at press time, they were having a difficult time beating The Headbangers. They're still the NWA tag team champions, but that's only because **Mosh** and **Thrasher** have only been able to beat them in *non-title* matches.

Perhaps Cornette has lost a bit of his magic managerial touch, because this Midnight Express can't even be considered for one of the top spots in our tag team ratings. Incidentally, what has the "Louisville Lip" done for the careers of **Dan Severn**, who left Cornette's camp this spring, and **Barry Windham**?

Perhaps James and Gunn really are the dominant team in the WWF.

While we're on the subject of WWF managers, we should discuss **Paul Bearer** as well. To put it bluntly, how much has this deranged man really done for the career of **Kane**, whom he now claims is his son? Kane has consistently been in the WWF ratings since he made his debut in the federation back in October of last year, and he has even made our overall Top 10 a few times, but what has he accomplished lately?

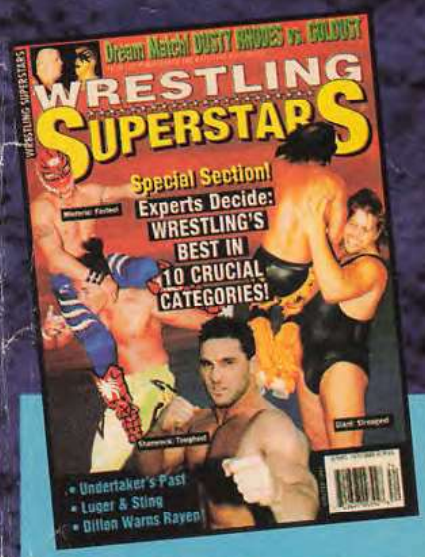
Kane

Specifically, what has he done since WrestleMania XIV, when he wrestled his brother, **The Undertaker**, for the first time? Let's see ... he has lost to Undertaker by disqualification in the U.S. ... been pinned by The Undertaker in the U.S. ... been pinned by The Undertaker on the WWF's most recent tour of Europe ... and gotten involved in part two of a feud with **Vader**, a man he dominated in a series of matches this winter.

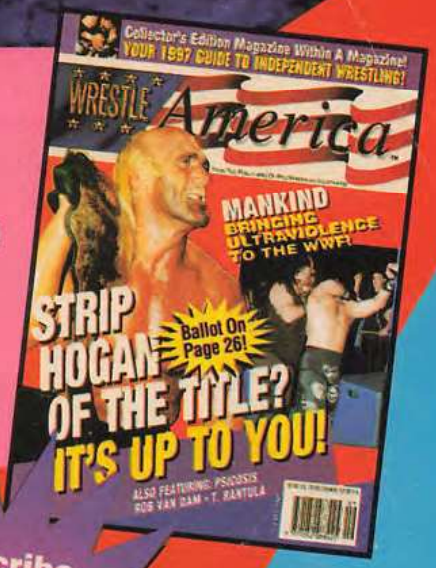
From our perspective, Kane wasn't making a lot of progress under Bearer. Only thanks to **Vince McMahon** is he a top contender to the WWF World title. The WWF owner ignored the fact that Kane had lost match after match to Undertaker and told Kane he'd get a shot at Austin if he could beat 'Taker on June 1, and he did it. Until that happened, he had been dropping in the ratings instead of edging closer to the top. We think he'd be much better off if he didn't listen to everything Bearer told him.

That's all for now! If you have any thoughts on what you see here on this page or anything in our ratings in general, please feel free to drop us a note. Write to: "Ratings Analysis," c/o WRESTLING SUPERSTARS, Box 1148, Fort Washington, PA 19034. □

WE'VE ADDED PUNCH TO OUR GREAT 1-2 COMBO DEAL!



Wrestle America provides up-to-the-minute coverage of the sport in all federations, plus *Wrestling Bad Guys,* a "magazine within a magazine"! It all adds up to the biggest wrestling magazine on the newsstands—96 pages of pulse-pounding fury and excitement!



Wrestling Superstars is famous for its lively color section, the dramatic and imaginative "Superstar Dream Match," and the informative *Wrestling Superstars* theme features—all highlighting the top-quality writing and photography you've come to expect from London Publishing Co.!

Subscribe today and save a whopping 25% off the newsstand cost!

WRESTLING SUPERSTARS and WRESTLE AMERICA have become so enormously popular, we've added two extra issues a year to both! Take advantage of our great combination offer and get six issues a year of these great magazines!

☐ Six issues of **Wrestle America** saves me 15% off the newsstand price. I am enclosing $20.14. Please start my subscription right away!

☐ Six issues of **Wrestling Superstars** also saves me 15%. I am enclosing $20.14 to start my subscription.

☐ I don't want to miss one exciting issue of **Wrestling Superstars** and **Wrestle America**! Start my 12-issue combination subscription today! I am enclosing $37.92, a 20% savings off the newsstand price!

☐ PLEASE SAVE ME EVEN MORE MONEY! I'm ordering a two-year subscription to **Wrestling Superstars** and **Wrestle America**—that's 24 issues in all! I am enclosing $71.10, a full 25% off the newsstand price!

☐ New ☐ Renewal

Please indicate method of payment:

☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)

☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

Card #_____ Expiration Date: ____/____

Signature:_____

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____ APT._____

CITY_____ STATE_____ ZIP_____

SINGTHEBELLY on Archive.org

Prices apply in U.S. only. Canada and all foreign countries: $24.94 ($35.14 airmail) for six issues; $47.52 ($67.92 airmail) for 12 issues; $90.30 for 24 issues (131.10 airmail). International money orders in U.S. funds only for all orders outside U.S. Please allow up to eight weeks before you receive your first issue.

Send to:
LONDON PUBLISHING CO.
P.O. Box 2021, Dept. 9
Marion, OH 43302

4634/12-97/4c

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

UPDATED EVERY WEEKDAY AND AFTER PAY-PER-VIEW EVENTS

HOTLINE

HOSTED BY SENIOR EDITOR BILL APTER

When it comes to wrestling, *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* magazine has all the inside information you want and it's only a phone call away.

If it happens in the ring, the locker room, or on the road, you'll hear it here first.

To get all the breaking stories from every federation, call the *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* Hotline now and you'll be the first to learn about ...

Exclusive news from behind the scenes
Upcoming events
Up-to-date results from around the world
Title changes and transactions
Pay-per-view reports
Wrestler of the week
Exclusive scouting reports
Plus ... Tell the editors of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* what you want to see in the magazine. Dictate a letter to the Editor-in-Chief. Selected letters will be printed in *Pro Wrestling Illustrated.*

CALL NOW

IN THE U.S., 1-900-884-4PWI
IN CANADA, 1-900-451-3101
IN THE U.K., 0897 555 263

This service is available on both touch-tone and rotary-dial phones.
*Cost per minute in the United States is $1.99. Cost per minute Canada is $2.49. Cost per minute in the United Kingdom is £1.00.
Kids, get your parents' permission.
BCM Box 6424, London WC1N 3XX

IN THE U.S., 1-900-884-4PWI
IN CANADA, 1-900-451-3101
IN THE U.K., 0897 555 263

4457/08-97